

League fails to agree on ailing finances

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab states failed Tuesday to agree a way to overhaul the finances of the Arab League and get it out of a crippling budget crisis, league officials said. League delegates held an emergency session to discuss the crisis and decided to "reformulate the draft project for financial mechanisms," an official said. They decided to keep working by their current system, "while completing measures to introduce computer systems now being worked on as part of the complete administrative development plan." League head Esmat Abdul Meguid had called the emergency session to draw up a new financial system "capable of setting rules to treat the budget deficit caused by members' failure to pay their annual dues." Member states owe more than \$5 million to this year's \$27.6 million budget, on top of more than \$107 million in unpaid dues from previous years. The pan-Arab body announced in mid-October that it could not pay the salaries of its 700 employees for the last quarter of the year because its coffers were empty.

Volume 21 Number 6091

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1995, RAJAB 14, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Egypt aims to boost links with Iraq

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt intends to increase its diplomatic mission in Iraq and reopen its commercial centre in Baghdad, a high level Egyptian diplomatic source said, quoted by the Arab daily Al Hayat on Tuesday. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa refused to confirm or deny the report to journalists. The reopening of the commercial centre, closed since 1991, is planned "for the beginning of next year," the unnamed source said. Baghdad broke diplomatic ties with Cairo after it took part in the U.S.-led coalition which ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war, but Egypt maintains an interests section headed by a charge d'affaires at the Indian embassy in the Iraqi capital. The source said Cairo intends to increase the number and level of employees at the interests section. He added that hundreds of Egyptians have begun returning to work in Iraq. Before the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, nearly two million Egyptians were employed in Iraq.

Damascus declaration ministers to meet

CAIRO (R) — The foreign ministers of the eight Damascus declaration countries — Egypt, Syria and six Gulf states — will meet in Syria on Dec. 27-28, an Egyptian official said on Tuesday. Badr Amman, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, told reporters the ministers would discuss joint cooperation during the meeting in Damascus.

Muasher, Barak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher on Tuesday met with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and exchanged views on developments of the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations. The meeting was the first since Mr. Barak took over as foreign minister.

Blast suspect is Jihad member

CAIRO (AFP) — A man arrested by Pakistan on suspicion of financing the bombing of Egypt's embassy in Islamabad is a member of the Jihad militant group, the Egyptian government daily Al Ahram reported on Tuesday. A security source told the paper that Cairo had requested fingerprints of the unidentified suspect from Pakistani authorities "to match them with militant elements in hiding abroad."

Asians swell Kuwait's population

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — More than 63 per cent of the 1.88 million residents in Kuwait are foreigners, many of them Asians, according to official statistics published Tuesday by the planning ministry. A total of 1,186,174 expatriates live in the emirate, among them 600,922 non-Arabs, mostly Asians, 463,335 Arabs and 121,917 stateless Arabs the official agency KUNA said quoting the figures. In March a planning ministry official said 560,000 Asian expatriates lived in Kuwait and European and U.S. nationals made up less than one per cent of the total. Before the Iraqi invasion in August 1990, Kuwait had a population of 2.2 million.

U.S. envoy discusses peace in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — U.S. presidential envoy Richard Beattie met Cyprus's President Glafcos Clerides on Tuesday to see if there was scope for a new American initiative to reunite the Greek and Turkish communities on the divided island. "I expressed the view of President Clinton that he would very much like to see us intensify our efforts to see if we can facilitate some resolution," Mr. Beattie, U.S. presidential emissary for Cyprus, told journalists after the meeting. "We have explored a number of ways to go forward from here," he added. Later on Tuesday he was due to visit the north of the island.

Last path of Jesus discovered

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The path walked by Jesus Christ when he was arrested by the Romans 2,000 years ago has been discovered in East Jerusalem, Israeli archaeologists said Tuesday. According to Christian tradition, it is the last path walked by Jesus as a free man before he was arrested by the agents of Pontius Pilate and condemned to be crucified. Jesus had just left the Coenaculum, where he shared the last supper with his 12 Apostles, and was going to the Gethsemane Garden, where he received the kiss from Judas before being arrested. The path, which is 200 metres long, started along the walls of the Old City and ended near the Church of All Nations at Gethsemane at the foot of the mount of Olives in East Jerusalem.

GCC seen adopting firm stand on Iraq and warning to Iran

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Gulf Arab leaders began winding up their annual summit Tuesday with a draft resolution calling on Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions before trade sanctions are lifted, apparently smoothing over differences on the thorny issue.

The draft, to be finalised before the three-day Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit ends Wednesday, also accused Iran of sponsoring extremist agitation in the region, said officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The leaders of the six-member alliance held a closed session Tuesday night to discuss the draft after a day of informal meetings. "There are no disagreements between the leaders on

the agenda," Abdul Aziz Abu Ali, the GCC's deputy secretary general, told the Emirates News Agency, (WAM).

"On the contrary, there's a united position on all political issues, including Iraq and Iran."

The summit, the 16th since the alliance was founded, has been largely overshadowed by the absence of ailing King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. His half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, took his place.

The alliance is dominated by Saudi Arabia. Other members are the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

The crippling U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, has divided the GCC. The UAE and Qatar want the sanctions

lifted to alleviate the suffering of Iraq's 20 million people.

But Saudi Arabia and Kuwait insist Baghdad must first comply fully with U.N. Security Council resolutions that include the destruction of Iraq's weapons programmes and the release of Kuwaiti prisoners.

"Iraq's an important element to the Arab cotity and Arab unity will not take place without the return of Iraq and its compliance to international resolutions," Sheikh Abdullah Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, UAE undersecretary for information and culture, told the Oman News Agency.

Arab diplomats said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein

(Continued on page 7)

Saudis hope King Fahd will continue to lead the country

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia expressed hope on Tuesday that King Fahd would continue to lead the country despite his illness.

"God be praised for the health that he has bestowed on King Fahd so that he may lead the country towards greater security and stability," the official Al Riyadh newspaper headlined.

Prince Sultan, the defence minister who stood in for his ailing brother King Fahd at the weekly royal cabinet meeting on Monday, said: "We ask God to give King Fahd health and strength so he can continue his role."

The royal cabinet said King Fahd took ill suddenly because of overwork and that he needed time to rest,

although it did not specify the nature of his illness.

The 73-year-old monarch has been in the hospital since last Thursday but he is officially still at work.

Diplomats said he is suffering from a blood clot on his brain.

The official Saudi Press Agency said "the guardian (King Fahd) of the two holy sites sent a telegram to Finland's President Martti Ahtisaari to congratulate him on the anniversary of the independence of his country."

Western diplomats in Riyadh doubted that the king could resume work soon even if his condition improves, adding he has spoken to no foreign leader since he became ill.

The activities attributed to King Fahd "are images designed to reassure people and tell them there is no power vacuum and there is no need to wonder about who might succeed him," a diplomat said.

He said King Fahd might travel abroad to recuperate from his illness, possibly to Switzerland where he has a large home on Lake Geneva.

Prince Sultan on Tuesday held talks with the country's religious leaders. "His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz met this afternoon with the ulama (Muslim theologians) and sheikhs," the official Saudi Press Agency said

(Continued on page 7)

PLO assails Peres' stand on Jerusalem after U.N. move

JERICHO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Tuesday criticised a defiant stand on Jerusalem by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres saying there could never be peace until the east of the Holy City is returned to the Palestinians.

Mr. Peres ruled out any compromise over Jerusalem, despite a U.N. vote repeating that Israel's declaration of the Holy City as its undivided capital was illegal.

"I cannot censure what Peres said but he knows the issue of Jerusalem is the top priority during negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories which are due to begin in less than six months," Local Government Minister Saeb Erakat said.

"Peres is aware that East Jerusalem is an occupied land like Gaza and Jericho and there will never be peace unless east Jerusalem is returned to Palestinian sovereignty," he added.

The United Nations on Monday repeated its opposition to a 1980 Israeli law proclaiming Jerusalem the country's capital, declaring the move illegal.

It also said Israel's jurisdiction over the whole city was invalid, after the Jewish state seized the Arab East in 1967.

The move provoked an uncompromising stand by Mr. Peres, who said late Monday: "We never thought yesterday, today or tomorrow that Jerusalem would be the subject of compromise or be divided."

"Jerusalem should also not become a partnership of two capitals for two states."

Dr. Erakat welcomed the U.N. vote saying it "reflects the whole world's position which considers east Jerusalem as an occupied city."

In a resolution approved by 133 member-states, the General Assembly said: "The decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem is illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever."

Thirteen countries abstained from the vote including the United States while Israel was the only U.N. member state to oppose the

(Continued on page 7)

Syria wants to pursue peace negotiation, Assad tells Ross

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad indicated his determination to make "progress" in Syria's deadlocked peace negotiations with Israel during lengthy talks here Tuesday with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross.

Mr. Assad's spokesman said that after five hours of talks that "both sides underlined the importance of pursuing the peace process and making progress."

Mr. Ross, who arrived in Syria late Monday after talks in Israel with Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, made no statement as he left. He was expected to return to the Jewish state to meet Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The discussions focused on a review of the peace process which ground to a halt in June over security arrangements to accompany an eventual Israeli withdrawal from

the Golan Heights.

"President Assad confirmed his commitment to the peace process until it meets its objectives," spokesman Jubran Kuriyeh said.

The United States would "make contacts with the concerned parties over the next few days," Mr. Ross told Mr. Assad.

Mr. Ross was accompanied to the airport by Syria's ambassador to Washington, Walid Muallem, who also attended the meeting at the presidential palace along with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara.

At the start of his shuttle Monday, Mr. Ross said both Israel and Syria were determined to make peace.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the Middle East in mid-December in a further push to reactivate the stalled

Syrian-Israeli peace talks, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker said Tuesday.

Mr. Walker told the press he met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa Tuesday to "discuss the upcoming visits by American officials."

Mr. Christopher "is expected to visit the Middle East in the middle of this month," Mr. Walker said, without specifying the date or itinerary of the visit.

Mr. Walker said Mr. Ross would come to Egypt "by the end of this week."

The ambassador also said U.S. Vice President Al Gore would visit Egypt in mid-January.

Foreign Ministry sources had said Mr. Gore would come to Cairo in mid-December for talks on a

(Continued on page 7)



RABIN REMEMBERED: An ultra-orthodox Jewish man looks at a photographic copy of the "song of peace" covered in the blood of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as a woman touches the display at the entrance to the Mount Herzl cemetery in West Jerusalem (see related story on page 12) (Reuter photo)

No unilateral amendments to press law, Karaki tells JPA

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Information Khaled Karaki pledged on Tuesday that the government would not take any step towards changing the Press and Publications Law without consulting with the concerned parties, Jordan Press Association President Saleman Qudah said.

Dr. Karaki criticised weekly tabloids, describing their coverage as sensation-oriented, and affirmed that the government was committed to preserving democracy, pluralism and public liberties, Mr. Qudah said.

Mr. Qudah had met Dr.

Karaki to inform him of a JPA board decision taken on Sunday to reject the proposed amendments to the Press and Publications Law.

The proposed amendments, which expand the government's powers to control the press, were drawn up by the Ministry of Information in line with comments made by His Majesty King Hussein who voiced dissatisfaction over the role of the Jordanian media, both state-run and private-owned.

"The amendments empower the government to close down newspapers and demand that chief editors be serving members of the JPA for at least seven years. They also impose an imprisonment

of three months to three years for violators of the law.

According to Mr. Qudah, Dr. Karaki confirmed at the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Justice Hisham Tal, that the government would not present a new draft law to the Lower House of Parliament for discussion and endorsement without a comprehensive debate at a national level or within the journalists.

"We have made our position known but the government has the authority in these matters," Mr. Qudah said. If the government insists on the amendments, "Parliament will be the final

(Continued on page 7)

Heavy users of water to pay more under proposed hikes

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A proposal for a hike in water prices presented to the Cabinet by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation would increase the fees to those who use a higher volume of water such as hotels and industry. Water for agriculture in the Jordan Valley, estimated to amount to 74 per cent of the country's annual water consumption, falls under the jurisdiction of the Jordan Valley Authority and will not be affected by the rise in price.

The minister said that the increase in price was to cover maintenance and operation of Jordan's domestic water

network, currently being refurbished. The government has been steadily losing money since the Ministry of Water assumed responsibility 10 years ago for the distribution, maintenance and operation of water and sewerage services, Dr. Irshaidat said.

In 1994 alone, the cost of maintenance and operations was JD 42 million, but revenues were only JD 34.6 million.

This is due in large part to the substantial water subsidy provided by the government in addition to more than 55 per cent of "unaccounted for" water annually, the

ment had no plans to abolish water subsidies altogether. "We are not raising the cost for the average user," Dr. Irshaidat said, but said that the bulk of the price increase would be borne by those who use a higher volume of water such as hotels and industry. Water for agriculture in the Jordan Valley, estimated to amount to 74 per cent of the country's annual water consumption, falls under the jurisdiction of the Jordan Valley Authority and will not be affected by the rise in price.

The minister said that the increase in price was to cover maintenance and operation of Jordan's domestic water

(Continued on page 7)

Assassin indicted for Rabin murder

TEL AVIV (AP) — State prosecutors Tuesday charged Yitzhak Rabin's confessed assassin with murder and two suspected accomplices with conspiracy and illegal weapons possession.

The charge sheet was submitted to the Tel Aviv district court. The three suspects were to be brought before the court Wednesday to hear the charges against them.

The indictment said that gunman Yigal Amir decided sometime after the Sept. 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace agreement to kill Mr. Rabin in order to prevent the implementation of the accord.

Amir turned to his brother, Hagai, and a friend, Dror Adani, who agreed to join the conspiracy to murder the prime minister, the indictment said.

The trio initially considered blowing up Mr. Rabin's car or firing an anti-tank rocket into Mr. Rabin's apartment, according to the charges.

In the end, Yigal Amir decided to kill Mr. Rabin with his 9-mm Beretta pistol and tried to approach him at three different public appearances this year, prosecutors said.

On Jan. 22, Amir waited for Mr. Rabin at the Yad

Vashem memorial in Jerusalem, but the prime minister cancelled his appearance after militants set off a suicide bomb that day.

On April 22, Mr. Rabin attended Passover celebrations, but Amir could not get close enough to the prime minister, the indictment said.

On Sept. 11, Mr. Rabin inaugurated a highway interchange in central Israel, but again Amir was kept away by security guards.

On Nov. 4, Amir told his brother Hagai that he would try to kill Mr. Rabin at a peace rally in Tel Aviv, the charges said.

Hagai tried to dissuade his brother, arguing that because of heavy security around the prime minister, Yigal's chances of getting out alive after firing the shots would be slim.

Hagai told his brother it would be better to kill Mr. Rabin with sniper rifles which the conspirators did not have at the time, the charges said.

Nevertheless, Yigal Amir went ahead with his plan. He loaded his Beretta with six hollow-point bullets that had been given to him by Hagai, according to the indictment. Yigal Amir left his home in

NATO adopts plan for action in Bosnia

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — NATO foreign and defence ministers, meeting in rare joint session, endorsed on Tuesday plans to send 60,000 troops to Bosnia to police a Balkans peace accord.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told reporters he hoped the NATO ministers decision would send "a clear signal to (the U.S.) Congress" to do the same. He said the peace implementation force would help "end the longest and most cruel war in Europe since World War II."

The plan will only receive final authorisation after the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in Paris on Dec. 14 and the passing of a U.N. Security Council resolution at about the same time transferring responsibility for Bosnia from the U.N. to NATO.

Mr. Kinkel praised the United States for helping bring the war to an end. "Without the political and material efforts of the U.S. we would not have come this far," he told reporters, adding the peace mission was one of the greatest tasks ever undertaken by the alliance.

Meanwhile, top U.N. refugee official Sadako Ogata unveiled Tuesday an ambitious three-stage plan for the

King defers Saudi visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has postponed a visit to Saudi Arabia following the hospitalisation of King Fahd and no new date for the trip has been set, official sources said Tuesday.

The visit, during which King Hussein was to have met with the Saudi monarch for the first time since the 1991 Gulf crisis, was postponed because of King Fahd's ill-health, said the sources without elaboration.

No definite date had been announced for the visit, which was finalised after the arrival here of Saudi Ambassador Abdullah Soudairi last month to fill the vacant top spot at the Saudi mission here since 1991, but it was expected to take place in the first week of December.

In another development, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who was scheduled to have left for an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Conakari, Guinea on Tuesday, has cancelled the visit as well as previously scheduled participation in a meeting in London on the implementation of last month's peace accord on ex-Yugoslavia.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi will lead the Jordanian team to the OIC conference.

Instead of the foreign minister, Health Minister Aref Batayneh will represent Jordan at the London meeting next week on the implementation of the U.S.-brokered agreement initiated by the leaders of ex-Yugoslavia in Dayton, Ohio, last month.

Mr. Kabariti was also supposed to have attended a meeting in Paris of international donors to the Palestinians on Dec. 9. Instead of Mr. Kabariti, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf was supposed to have attended the meeting, but the French government announced Monday that the gathering was postponed until Jan. 9 because of the international preoccupation with Bosnia.

Asked to comment on the changes in the schedules, Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times that the coincidence of

(Continued on page 7)

repatriation of almost three million refugees forced to flee their homes during four years of bitter war in ex-Yugoslavia.

"In the first phase we will be returning the estimated 1.2 million displaced people inside Bosnia because they are the ones who are in immediate need of a place to go where they could have shelter," Ms. Ogata told reporters after meeting with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Foreign Minister Mate Granic.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said her organisation would then focus on repatriating refugees that fled to neighbouring countries, including Croatia, and finally encourage the return of those that sought refuge in Europe.

According to the UNHCR some 800,000 people fled the conflict in Bosnia to neighbouring Croatia and Serbia, while another 700,000 became exiles in other European states.

Ms. Ogata said the two-year plan would probably not be launched before the spring because of the difficulty of moving people during the harsh winter months.

However, she admitted

(Continued on page 7)

سكنا من اجل

U.S. calls on Egypt to probe vote fraud

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has called Monday Egypt to investigate alleged vote fraud in last week's legislative elections, charging harassment of opposition candidates and reports of government interference.

"Some of the opposition parties were denied an opportunity to present their case to the people," said State Department spokesman Glyn Davies.

"There were some difficulties that we noted with harassment, arrests, detention, trial of political activists and campaign workers, and reported government interference with the election," he said.

No opposition candidate won a seat in last Wednesday's parliamentary election, in which the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) won 123 of 137 seats. Independents, most of them former NDP members, won 14 seats.

Another 307 seats will be decided in runoff elections Wednesday. Only 66 opposition candidates from the Wafd and the Muslim Brotherhood parties are in runoff contests.

The charges of government interference, if proven, would be "in direct contradiction" of assurances by President Hosni Mubarak, said Mr. Davies.

In light of the statements by Egyptian government officials and their public commitment to free and fair elections, we look to the Egyptian government now to investigate those allegations of fraud and electoral irregularities, and we trust that they'll all be fully investigated," he said.

Opposition parties said Monday they would not boycott the second round of elections.

Some opposition members had called for a boycott because they were angry they had not won any seats in the first round.

"We will continue with the battle till the end and will not retreat. All success is from God Almighty," Yassin Siragaddin, deputy head of Wafd Party in Cairo, told Reuters.

Ibrahim Abaza Dessouki, Wafd assistant secretary, told a news conference on Sunday his party would discuss a boycott with other opposition members but Mr. Siragaddin, denied this.

Magdi Hussein of the Islamist Labour Party told

Reuters has party would participate in the run-offs.

In a new crackdown on the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, police meanwhile arrested 18 poll watchers ahead of the run-offs.

Mohatar Noub, a Brotherhood member running against a government-backed candidate in a Cairo district, said police picked up the men in their homes Sunday night and Monday at dawn.

"The men they have arrested are the crux of my election process," he said. "Police are picking them one by one."

Police denied making the arrests.

About 30 candidates of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic fundamentalist group, will compete in the run-offs.

The Brotherhood is outlawed but had been tolerated and allowed to function openly until January. Then the government began an extensive crackdown on its members, arresting dozens, putting them on trial and closing its headquarters in Cairo.

The Brotherhood, which renounced violence in the 1970s, says it supports democracy and would treat Egypt's Christians as equals.

In days leading up to the elections last Wednesday, Brotherhood members accused the government of arresting more than 600 of their supporters and poll watchers.

The government initially admitted to 140 arrests and then later another 95, but denied that any poll watchers were detained.

Militants meanwhile killed four people, including at least two Christians, in an attack on a poultry farm in the south Egypt province of Minya, police said on Tuesday.

An unknown number of militants from the Gamaa Islamiya, a radical Islamist group, were seen in a trucked off from a village, 270 kilometers south of Cairo, police said.

Nadir Habib Beshai, Mondi Habib Beshai and Mohsen Fayek Abdullah were killed immediately and two other Christians, Sami Habib Beshai and George Nagui Beshai, were injured.

The gunmen also shot dead Mustapha Khalil Muhammad, a village guard who tried to stop them, before escaping into nearby fields, police said.

Sudan says Egypt lifted 'water siege' against Halaib troops

KHARTOUM (R) — Egyptian forces have let water supplies through to Sudanese troops in the disputed Halaib triangle, a Khartoum newspaper said on Tuesday.

Sudan said last week that Egyptian troops had planted mines in the Red Sea coastal area, surrounded Sudanese troops there and cut off their water and food supplies.

Egypt denied taking any military action in the Red Sea coastal area but did not comment specifically on the water.

The independent newspaper Akhbar Al Yom said: "Egyptian troops have now permitted water to go to the Sudanese troops and citizens in the area."

It quoted what it called a highly placed source as saying the Egyptians at first made water deliveries conditional on the Sudanese removing the Sudanese flag in the area. The Egyptians later dropped

this condition and let the water in, it added.

The Halaib triangle, 19,500 square kilometres of sparsely populated desert, has been a barometre of political relations between Egypt and Sudan for decades.

The dispute flared again after Egypt fell out with the military government which took power in Khartoum in 1989.

Egypt has been slowly squeezing out all Sudanese government personnel and says it has ambitious plans to populate it with thousands of Egyptians from the Nile Valley.

Sudan last week also accused Egypt of sending tanks to help Ugandan forces allegedly fighting in southern Sudan.

Egypt denied that and Uganda has repeatedly said that the only armed Ugandans in the south are rebels.

But Akhbar Al Yom said

the Sudanese authorities had obtained more documents proving that Egypt and the United States were using Ugandans to intervene in southern Sudan, where Sudanese government troops are fighting a chronic rebellion.

It did not say what the documents were but added that they would be made available soon.

The U.S. embassy in Khartoum has also rejected the Sudanese government's allegations of U.S. interference in the south.

An embassy statement on Monday said the United States was keen to hold a dialogue with the Sudanese government.

"Through this channel of dialogue, we will be able to overcome any misunderstanding which is hindering Sudanese-American relations," the statement said.

Japanese troops due in Golan next year

TOKYO (R) — Japan is planning to dispatch a peacekeeping mission to the Golan Heights early next year, possibly in January and earlier than previously scheduled, government officials said on Tuesday.

Japanese government officials are working on the details of a programme to send troops to replace Canadian troops in the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) which currently acts as a buffer between Syrian and Israeli forces on the Golan Heights.

The Japanese government decided in August that it would aim to send troops in February.

"The cabinet decided in August that it would begin preparations to try to send troops by February," a Foreign Ministry official said.

But he said there was a chance that Japanese troops might be dispatched in January if a final draft of the programme could be thrashed out and approved by the cabinet this month.

Japanese Defence Minister Seisiro Eto told a news conference on Tuesday that the Japanese contingent should be equipped in the same manner as the Canadian team it would replace, meaning that the Japanese troops should carry light arms.

The Japanese team's main responsibility is expected to be the transportation of daily goods.

Japan has been keen to send a peacekeeping force to the Golan Heights to boost its profile in the Middle East.

After nearly two years of intense debate, Japan in 1992 passed a law paving the way for its troops to serve overseas.

The first contingent went to Cambodia in October that year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian kept chained up for 18 months

TYRE (AFP) — A mentally disturbed Palestinian who has suffered from nervous fits since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon has been kept chained up for the last 18 months. The family of 29-year-old Mohammad Wadi have kept him chained at the refugee camp of Jal Al Bahr in South Lebanon. UNRWA, the relief agency for Palestinian refugees, "has stopped treating him and refuses to help us. They are to blame for his being chained up," charged brother Ali. Mohammad Wadi has been mentally disturbed since an Israeli shell smashed into their home during the invasion. "We keep him chained for his own protection and to protect us from his acts of violence. Once, he set fire to the house and was only just saved himself," explained Ali Wadi. "He needs medicine and permanent care. Perhaps he needs to be put in a home."

Tajikistan opens embassy in Ankara

ANKARA (AFP) — The former Soviet republic of Tajikistan in Central Asia has opened an embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara. Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov said at an inauguration ceremony that the Ankara embassy was his country's first outside the former Soviet Union. Turkey became the first country to open an embassy in the Tajik capital Dushanbe in 1994. Following the Soviet Union's dissolution in late 1991, Turkey has developed close political and economic ties with the mainly Muslim new states of Azerbaijan in Transcaucasia and Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia. Turkic societies are predominant in all these republics except Tajikistan where the majority is of Persian origin and speaks Farsi while the Uzbeks, a Turkic group, are a minority.

Russians rescue 12 Turkish sailors

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian coast guards rescued 12 Turkish sailors who were drifting in a boat after a fire destroyed their ship, a news agency reported Monday. The fire aboard the Sihal broke out in a coal-filled hold Friday while the ship was en route from the Russian Black Sea port of Tuapse to Istanbul. ITAR-TASS quoted the coast guard's press service as saying. Failing to put down the flames, the crew abandoned the vessel some 16 kilometres off the Russian coast. On Sunday, coast guards found and rescued the sailors, and a fire-fighting crew was sent to their blazing, deserted ship drifting in the sea, the report said.

74 Asian illegal immigrants held in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — Seventy-four Asians were arrested for illegally entering the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during a sweep involving coast guard ships and helicopters, a newspaper said Tuesday. They arrested 39 people in Ras Al Khaimah Saturday and Sunday and 35 others on a boat off the coast of Fujairah, Al Khaleej reported. The breakdown of their nationalities was not given, although they were all said to be Asian. Colonel Abdul Rahman Shalouh, director of the coast guard, said last month that more than 10,500 foreigners — mainly Iranians, Afghans, Pakistanis and Indians — have been arrested for illegal entry this year. Most illegal immigrants are seeking jobs in the UAE, which is one of the world's richest countries with per capita income of more than \$17,000.

Cyprus is not Italy, Egyptians learn

NICOSIA (AP) — Sixteen Egyptians who thought they were in Italy when they arrived in Cyprus last week were found guilty of illegal entry. The court in the Cypriot coastal town of Larnaca Monday fined 14 of them \$220 each and the remaining two \$130. The Egyptians, who will be deported, told the court they had paid about \$1,000 each to travel to Italy by boat, but the skipper put them ashore near a fishing harbour in Cyprus. They realised they were not in Italy when they changed money.

Wife of Israel's tourism minister dies

TEL AVIV (AP) — Ruth Baram, the wife of Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, died of cancer Tuesday, the ministry said. She was 57. Officials at Jerusalem's Hadassah 'Ain Karem hospital would not give further details about the illness. Earlier this year, Mr. Baram served as both tourism and interior minister, but then gave back the interior portfolio, saying he needed to spend more time with his ailing wife. Mrs. Baram died at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) Tuesday. Mrs. Baram is survived by her husband and three sons.

Kuwaiti, U.S. and British troops in war games

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Hundreds of Kuwaiti, U.S. and British troops in tanks and armoured vehicles staged war games in the Kuwaiti desert south of Iraq, firing live machine gun rounds and missiles, a newspaper said Tuesday. A total of 500 Kuwaiti, 300 U.S. and 50 British troops on Monday launched a mock attack on an enemy brigade as part of routine war games held since the 1991 Gulf war that freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, the Arab Times said. M-1 Abrams battle tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles were used in the exercises, the final one under Intrinsic Action 95-3 Phase II. Taking part were Kuwait's National Guard 15th Brigade, Britain's First Battalion the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, and the U.S. Army's Third Brigade, Combat Team, Fourth Infantry Division. The United States and Britain signed defence agreements with Kuwait after the Gulf war that allows them to conduct training and station military equipment in the emirate.

ILO: Palestinian jobs vital for Mideast peace

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) said on Monday peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours could be endangered unless jobs were quickly found for an army of unemployed Palestinians.

The United Nations agency, in a report on the eve of a visit to the region by its Director-General Michel Hansenne, said an estimated 400,000 Palestinians aged 15 and over had no jobs and the number was growing at an annual rate of 10 per cent.

"The risks of social havoc undermining prospects for lasting peace in the region will soon become overwhelming unless jobs are created urgently and on a large scale," Mr. Hansenne, a former Belgian minister of social affairs, said in the report.

"This should now be considered a top priority," he added.

Mr. Hansenne was to leave on Tuesday for a six-day visit to Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. He is due to assess progress in a programme led by the agency for the creation of a department of labour by the Palestinian National Authority in areas from which the Israeli army has withdrawn.

The ILO indicated the true unemployment situation among Palestinians was probably much worse than the figures showed.

The figures, it said, failed to give a true picture of women's role in the Palestinian economy, or to take into account thousands of political prisoners still to be released and who would then enter the job market.

Aideed rivals lobby against Libyan aid

CAIRO (R) — An envoy from opponents of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed said on Monday he would ask Egypt and the Arab League to do what they could to make Libya refrain from supporting their rival.

Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail, foreign affairs representative of the Somali Salvation Alliance, repeated allegations that Libya was supporting General Aideed, who controls parts of south Mogadishu and central Somalia. Gen. Aideed's group has denied the allegations.

But Mr. Ismail, who was in Cairo en route from Europe to Somalia on a diplomatic mission for Somali clan militia leader Ali Mahdi Mohammed, told Reuters Libya had declared its support in public.

He declined to give details of the Libyan support but said some opponents of Gen. Aideed say he had received Libyan military aid.

"You can't give anything without giving something," what the Libyans are doing is an act of enmity against the Somali people. They have to refrain from this," Mr. Ismail said.

Mr. Ismail said he would raise the subject when he meets representatives of the Egyptian government and the Cairo-based Arab League, possibly on Tuesday.

"I will bring it up with anyone I meet. It is a big

political mistake by Libya, a very wrong choice," he added.

Mr. Ismail said the Somali Salvation Alliance also had direct contacts on the subject with Libyan leaders and remained hopeful that these would bear fruit.

"The contacts are not yet at the stage where we can disclose things but we strongly hope they will revise their stand," he said. "We will continue these contacts."

Gen. Aideed won the respect of many Third World radicals when he led his militia against U.S. forces sent to Somalia to ensure relief supplies reach the needy and to set up a stable government. But the U.S. forces have left and the United States has since shown little interest in the country.

"If it (Libyan support) is because of the Americans then there are no Americans left in Somalia," Mr. Ismail said.

Mr. Ismail said Gen. Aideed was the main obstacle to political reconciliation in Somalia and predicted that his military campaigns to extend his territory would fail.

"Aideed is an isolated political phenomenon of limited human and material resources, trying by acts of violence to perpetuate his name. His days are numbered, very numbered," he said.

Jordanian, Palestinian writers sign agreement for close cooperation

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian writers have signed a cultural agreement that calls for enhancing cultural interaction and fighting normalisation of cultural relations with Israel or Israelis.

The agreement, signed on Monday by Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) President Ibrahim Alsi and Palestinian Writers Union (PWU) President Izzat Ghazawi, calls on both sides to coordinate efforts in Arab and international conferences in line with the Arab nation's objectives of "freedom, unity and fighting normalisation with the Zionist culture."

"The two unions endorse the bilateral agreement out of concern over the interests of the two peoples and in line with the two parties' commitment to enhance relations among their members," said the agreement, released on Tuesday. "The agreement reflects the two parties' commitment to increase cooperation in the fields of culture and literature."

The agreement sets June 9 as "a day for intellectuals defence of Jerusalem." It also calls for holding annual cultural weeks in Jordan and in Palestine.

The agreement calls on both parties to enhance cooperation in the field of culture, literature and creative writing. Each side would publish and promote the literature of the other through its own means of publication.

Both parties pledge to provide the appropriate facilities for each other provided that members have a letter of recommendation. The two unions agreed also on exchanging material and expertise in the cultural field.

The agreement's duration is two years. It is renewed automatically unless one of the parties wishes to amend it.

Jordan Times
Tel: 684311/
699634

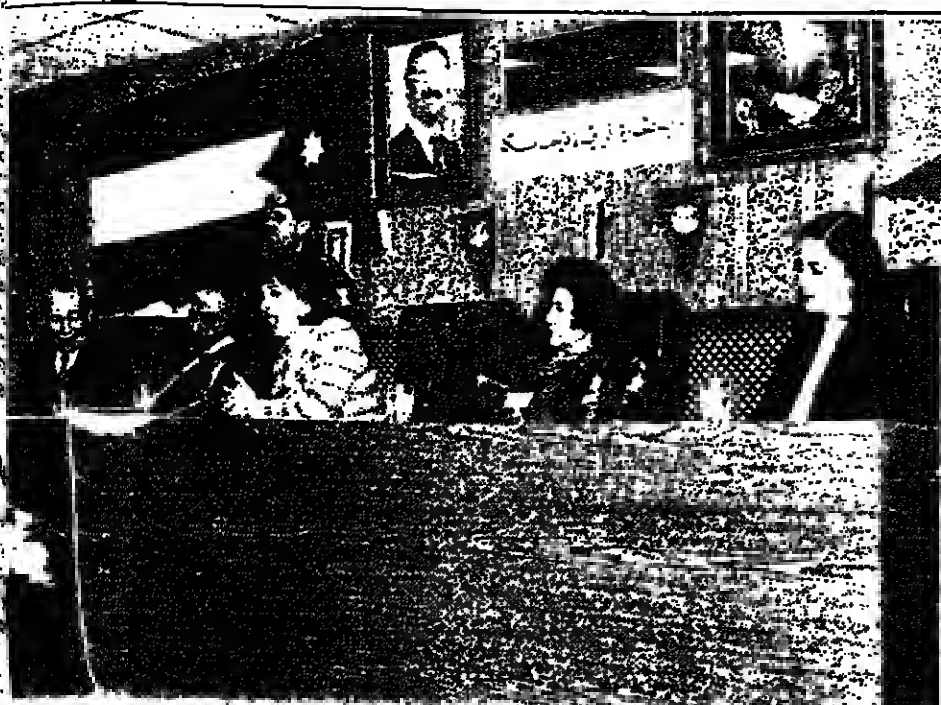
JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	Inspector Gadget
14:30	Ghost Writer
15:00	Tomorrow's World
15:30	Amazing Stories
16:00	
16:30	The Adventures of the Black Stallion
17:00	Fractals
17:30	Joux
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Anything for a Laugh
20:00	
Doc. — The Nature of Things	
20:25	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10	Star Trek
22:00	News in English
22:25	Frim
22:45	Law and Order
23:30	The Sun Road
00:30	Comedy — Second Thought
PRAYER TIMES	
04:54	Fajr
06:16	Sunrise/Dawn
11:26	Dhuhr
14:12	'Asr
16:36	Maghrib
17:58	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweith, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Anglo-American Church Tel. 623526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with skies cloudy to partly cloudy and winds southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max temp. Amman 5/14	

Amman	12/23
Decatur	5/15
Jordan Valley	11/20
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Amman 23, Humidity readings: Amman 95 per cent, Amman 38 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Bassam Karadotah	759200
Dr. Makhles Halasah	819220
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	846070
Dr. Mawher Al Qasbi	779299
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Naioukh pharmacy	636672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	636272
IBRID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qasbi	281741
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rabi Atallah	984424

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amr	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amr	644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642622
Malles, J. Amman	636140
Palatine, Shamsi	607071
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	661775/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muasher	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775111/26
Army, Al-Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	6224030
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)986732
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)900560
Al-Hima Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IBRID:	
Princess Bana Hospital	(02)275555
Green Catholic Hospital	(02)272715
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:50	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Jeddah (SV)
12:15	Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
14:20	Algiers (AH)
18:00	Sana'a (YV)
20:10	Beirut (ME)
22:05	Larnaca (CY)
22:45	Athens (OA)
23:15	Amsterdam (KL)
23:59	London (BA)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:45	Istanbul, Rome (RJ)
10:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00	Berlin, London (RJ)
11:25	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30	Istanbul (RJ)
19:35	Colombo (RJ)
08:55	Beirut, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00	Dubai, Damascus (RJ)
10:05	Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:25	New Delhi (RJ)
21:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:10	Cakarta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:15	Agaba (RJ)
22:45	Sana'a (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:45	Beirut (ME)
09:15	London (KL)
10:40	Cairo (MS)
12:00	Jeddah (SV)
13:25	Karachi (PK)
15:20	Sana'a (YV)
21:00	Shanghai (AH)
22:50	Larnaca (CY)
23:50	Larnaca (CY)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.	
Apple	700/500
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Banana (imported)	950/750
Cabbage	120/180
Carrot	300/180
Cauliflower	140/80
Cucumbers (large)	200/120
Cucumbers (small)	350/280
Eggplant	750/600
Garlic	220/150
Grape Fruit	240/150
Leamon	180/120
Marrow (large)	280/200
Marrow (small)	200/150
Onion (green)	220/150
Onion (dry)	220/150
Orange	530/400
Pepper (hot)	220/150
Pepper (sweet)	220/150
Potato	280/220
Radish	140/80
Spinach	130/80
String Beans	620/300
Tomato	280/180



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday addresses a meeting in Zarqa governorate on plans by the Jordanian National Committee for Women in re-organising women committees to help them cater to new developments (Petra photo)

Princess Basma marks International Volunteers Day

ZARQA (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday announced that the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW) is in the process of re-organising women committees in the different governorates with a view to helping them cater to new developments and new requirements at the social and economic levels.

Addressing a celebration in the Zarqa governorate marking International Volunteers Day, the Princess said that women committees have made major strides in very short periods towards fulfilling their missions in serving women and local communities.

The Princess said that there was need for better organisation of committee work at the national level and that committees have to define their objectives and their priorities as well as new trends and plans.

Princess Basma said committees in the Zarqa governorate have undertaken pioneering roles in handling

various women-related issues and have set a good example to other committees.

The princess lauded the efforts of the Ministry of Education, the Zarqa chamber of commerce and the Zarqa Municipality for their continued cooperation with and support for local women committees.

The Princess distributed prizes to 15 children who took part in a folklore performance for the Princess on the occasion of the International Volunteers Day.

Princess Basma earlier visited the Zarqa Governor's office and also inspected the head office of the local women's committee and met with its members.

She also inspected Zarqa Municipality's Hashemite Hall to view the various items depicting rural and bedouin life on display.

In New York U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali issued a message on International Volunteers Day noting that "Volunteering is

just such an act of will."

"Today in scores of countries, volunteers, including several thousand U.N. volunteers, demonstrate this resolve by helping the United Nations build peace, affirm democracy, promote human rights, relieve suffering and work for sustainable human development," the message said.

Mr. Ghali said that every community has its volunteers and that gaps between the rich and poor in terms of money, resources, technology and information threatens to widen rather than narrow.

"Fifty years on, the achievements of the U.N. have been remarkable, but conflict and poverty still afflict the international community amid preoccupation with domestic issues and constraints. Only renewed acts of will and resolve on the part of states and peoples can ensure that the goals of peace and prosperity for all are kept firmly in view," his message said.

Crown Prince calls for housing sector plans in line with sustainable development trends

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday said Jordan is aspiring to build a model homeland through partnership with nations at the regional and the international levels.

"Let us benefit from other countries' experiences and major achievements and let us open our doors and our minds for an exchange of information and knowledge in all the different fields," Prince Hassan said in his address to the opening session of a three-day symposium held to review the performance of the housing sector in Jordan.

In his address, delivered on his behalf by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour, Prince Hassan called for the start-up of an economic dialogue aimed at utilising the country's capabilities and developing its institutions.

"All parties to the construction process which include the private and public sectors, voluntary and non-governmental organisations and local councils are invited to activate their roles in the construction process," Prince Hassan said.

"If His Majesty King

Hussein has succeeded in laying the foundations for democracy and political pluralism and respect for human rights, we are called on to follow in his footsteps and lay the basis for the construction of economic and developmental democracy which are vital elements for the building of a strong homeland to serve as a model for other countries in the region," Prince Hassan said.

"The whole world is now moving towards new trends in sustainable development, economically and socially aimed at securing equality and justice and ensuring improved living conditions for the various communities," the Prince said.

He said Jordan was currently preparing to take part in the Second World Habitat conference whose objective is to provide appropriate housing for all citizens, which takes environmental considerations into account.

Specifically, construction of such estates will be designed to protect arable lands.

Prince Hassan said the conference is expected to come up with a world strategy to help certain countries provide appropriate housing to all people. He



Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour Tuesday delivers a speech on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening session of a symposium on housing (Petra photo)

noted that more than a billion people in the world have no proper shelter.

The symposium, which is organised by the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), is being attended by 150 participants from 35 ministries and public and private organisations who are scheduled to review 20

working papers on housing schemes.

HUDD Director General Yousef Hiyasat said the housing sector grew by 5.2 per cent in 1987 and rose to 18.4 per cent in 1993 and 5.6 per cent in 1994.

He added that this sector employs seven per cent of the total workforce in Jordan.

Working papers will deal with construction planning, challenges facing the housing sector, and prospects for utilising state-owned lands for housing in Zarqa and Ruseifa, as well as the experiments of a number of organisations such as the Jordan Valley Authority in building homes for local communities.

Telecommunications workshops to probe into regional policies

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraiab Tuesday opened a 10-day regional workshop on telecommunications policies organised by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in cooperation with the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

Mr. Saraiab said the meeting offers participants from the Arab region good opportunities to benefit from the advanced technology of the industrialised world.

The workshop coincides with Jordan's ongoing efforts to overhaul its national telecommunications services and the country's stride towards transforming the TCC into a public company, the minister said in an address at the opening session.

"We attach great importance to this workshop because we are in dire need for developing our telecommunications services to cater to the rapid changes and vast develop-

ments in the world of telecommunications," the minister said.

The minister described developments in the field of telecommunications in North America, Japan and Western Europe in the past decades as revolutionary.

He said developments opened the door for free competition among various organisations.

ITU representative Khalil Abu Rizek said lecturers from the Netherlands, the World Bank and ITU will address the participants during the workshop which ends on Dec. 14. They will discuss various issues related to promoting telecommunications services.

The meeting, Mr. Abu Rizek added, will enable participants from the Arab World to benefit from an exchange of views with lecturers from industrialised nations.

The workshop will also review experiments in the telecommunications policies in Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan and Egypt.

Visiting company shows interest in development projects for Jordan

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Water and Irrigation Salen Irshaidat said Tuesday that the French company, Lyonnaise Des Eaux, whose chairman Gerome Monod left the Kingdom yesterday after a two-day visit, believes that Jordan provides the best climate for investment in the region.

Dr. Irshaidat said the French company, which is one of the largest water sector holding companies in the world, showed interest in investing in the Kingdom especially after the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit hosted in Amman in October.

He added that the company, which is also the largest in the areas of construction, railways, airports and roads, has sent delegations to the Kingdom to explore investment

opportunities in fields such as water, roads and railways.

"They met officials in the Aqaba region and held talks on projects such as railways and the airport," said Dr. Irshaidat.

The company's "prime interest is its participation in the implementation of projects financed by France under the French-Jordanian protocol," Dr. Irshaidat said.

Secondly, he said, after the company looks at Jordan's legislation and investment facilities, it will present investment proposals to the ministry, especially in managing part of the water-related services in the country.

During his visit to the Kingdom, Mr. Monod held talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on bilateral cooperation in water management.

They also discussed ways for Jordan to ben-

efit from French expertise in overcoming water-related problems.

Mr. Monod, who said he was satisfied with the talks he had with the Jordanian authorities, also visited water projects in Amman and Aqaba.

He and his five-member delegation also visited "peace projects in Um Qais, dam projects, water networks and the Baga'a waste water treatment plant," Dr. Irshaidat said.

According to Dr. Irshaidat, the French company is highly experienced in solving solid waste problems as well, and could contribute to the improvement and development of the waste water treatment plants in Jordan.

"The company showed interest in developing the water treatment plants in Aqaba and Amman," said Dr. Irshaidat.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Houses discuss replies to Speech from Throne

AMMAN (Petra) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Tuesday chaired two separate meetings for the two committees in charge of drafting the reply to the Speech from the Throne, which King Hussein delivered on Saturday at the opening of the Parliament's ordinary session. The Upper House committee will meet on Thursday to endorse the reply in its final form, while the Lower House's committee will meet today to prepare the final draft reply, which will be endorsed on Saturday by the House, in preparation for presenting it to the King. The Lower House will also meet today to listen to the budget statement, which will be delivered by Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh. The House will refer the budget law to its finance committee for examination and submission to a specialised House committee. The House will also elect its various standing committees and any other committees that the House might wish to form.

Kabariti receives messages from UK, Australia

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday received two messages from his British and Australian counterparts dealing with bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The messages were delivered to Mr. Kabariti by the ambassador of the United Kingdom Peter Hinchcliff and Australian Charge d' Affaires William Richardson, during two separate meetings he had with them.

Italian trade delegation arrives in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — An Italian delegation representing the Chamber of Commerce and a number of senior executives from Italian companies Wednesday arrive here on a two-day visit to Jordan. The delegation's visit aims to obtain first-hand information on investment and trade opportunities in Jordan and to meet with representatives of the Jordanian industrial and commercial sectors. The visit falls within the context of ongoing contact between the Jordanian Export Promotion and Commercial Centres Corporation and the National Italian external trade corporation.

Ministers, UAE envoy review bilateral ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of agriculture and social development Mansour Ben Tarif and Salwa Masri Tuesday reviewed with the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ahmad Ali Naser Zaabi, in two separate meetings, scopes of cooperation in agricultural research and means of enhancing bilateral cooperation and coordination in the social and voluntary work fields. In his meeting with Mrs. Masri, the ambassador was briefed on the role of local community development departments in voluntary work and coordinating and supervising the voluntary societies work. The two sides also discussed means of strengthening coordination in international conferences, particularly in the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, to be held this month.

Transport minister praises UAE visa decision

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal Tuesday lauded a decision by the United Arab Emirates to grant multiple entry visas valid for six months to Jordanian drivers, saying the decision reflects the close and strong relations between both countries. The decision, Mr. Tal said, serves a large segment of Jordanian drivers and makes their jobs easier by allowing them to move freely between both countries. Mr. Tal added that the decision will help increase volume of trade exchange between both countries.

Abul Shaer briefs JICA delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Nader Abul Shaer, who is also Chairman of the National Population Committee, Tuesday briefed a visiting delegation from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the committee's duties and its role in the preparation of the national population strategy. He praised Her Royal Highness Princess Basma for her ongoing support for the population issues and activities. The JICA delegation is currently on a visit to Jordan to assess demographic and primary and maternal health care services in preparation for working out priorities for aid based on actual needs.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CHRISTMAS SALE

* Christmas sale and slide show in aid of the people of Dana at the International Community School at 6:00 p.m. Slide show at 7:00 p.m. Tel. 841070.

LECTURES

* Lecture in Arabic by Ibrahim Nasrallah on his recent exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 5:30 p.m.

FILMS

* "The Russia House" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photography by poet Ibrahim Nasrallah entitled "The Autobiography of an Eye" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. (Until Jan. 4).

* Photograph exhibition "Biblical Itineraries" at the French Cultural Centre. (Until Dec. 30).

* Abstract art by Abdul Raheem Wakid at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Until Dec. 6).

* Sculptures & paintings by Iraqi Artist Ismail Fatah, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.

Jordan to retrieve passports of Palestinians with Israeli nationality

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will retrieve the Jordanian passports of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem who have obtained Israeli nationality in accordance with a recent agreement reached between the Kingdom and Israel, secretary general of the foreign ministry Ibrahim Naghawi Tuesday announced.

Mr. Naghawi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the agreement was reached after Jordan insisted that it retrieve all Jordanian passports held by the Israeli government.

He said Jordan and Israel were still negotiating the fate of Jordanian detainees in Israeli prisons.

Meanwhile, an Israeli interior ministry official Tuesday said Israel will also give Jordan the names of Palestinians who have requested an Israeli passport but do not have a Jordanian passport. Agence France Presse (AFP) reported.

AFP said the measures to give back passports to the Jordanian government are designed to prevent residents in East Jerusalem

from having both Israeli and Jordanian passports.

Most Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, hold Jordanian passports. The areas were under Jordanian control from 1950 until Israel occupied them in 1967.

Israel, which annexed East Jerusalem in 1980, provides on request passports to Arabs living in the city. According to AFP, hundreds have obtained the passports over the last few years, despite being condemned by the PLO.

Seminar: South Africa Today

"South Africa's Current State - Politically and Economically"

Speakers: South African academics: Prof. W Breytenbach and Dr. P. Ncube

Date/Time: Thursday, 7 December 1995 at 10:00

Venue: Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, 1st Circle.

Colombo takes full control of Jaffna

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's Armed Forces raised the National Flag over the captured Tamil Tiger stronghold of Jaffna Tuesday but the rebel guerrillas announced a major recruitment drive, signalling the war was not over.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte raised the flag before noon, sealing the government's control over the city.

The flag symbolically ended nearly a decade of rule over the northern town by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

In a ceremony broadcast over state radio and accompanied by 30 minutes of martial music, armed services chiefs and the town's top administrator also raised emblems representing the northern province, the three armed services and the police.

The LTTE, who have not admitted the fall of their citadel, said Tuesday the guerrillas were continuing to fight. They did not say where.

The rebel Voice of Tigers radio announced a major recruitment drive and urged people to enlist in the LTTE to stop the army "before it was too late".

The LTTE mouthpiece, monitored by Reuters in the frontline town of Vavuniya, urged Tamils worldwide to join the rebel movement to stop the military from gain-

ing any more ground. "Let us not wait for the last moment. Let us not start shouting when the army starts its attacks on civilians. We have to strengthen our military power now," a new recruit said.

The government flag-raising ceremony capped a government offensive dubbed Operation Riviresa, launched by the military on Oct. 17, the army's biggest assault in 12 years of war.

"This action is against terrorism and separatism," Mr. Ratwatte said at the ceremony. He paid tribute to 400 soldiers estimated killed in seven weeks of fighting, calling them "gallant men" who had "fought bravely to safeguard the country's independence and unity".

The military says its troops killed 1,925 rebels and wounded more than 5,000 on the march towards the rebel citadel.

Under rebel rule, Jaffna had been a virtual mini-state with its own police, courts and tax system.

More than 50,000 people have been killed since the LTTE launched its campaign for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in majority Sinhalese Sri Lanka.

The Ministry of Defence said Tuesday forces were continuing to clear narrow lanes and clusters of buildings in the largely deserted

town, which had been laced with mines and booby traps by fleeing rebels.

The government said Tuesday it would follow up on the military takeover of battered Jaffna with measures to restore civil administration.

It has often said the aim of the current offensive was to weaken the LTTE and bring them back to the negotiating table.

"We have been told that about 80 per cent of the town is in good shape and most of the civilians' homes are undamaged," S.M.J. Senaratne, coordinator for emergency relief efforts in uncleared areas of the north, told Reuters.

"We feel most of the people who left (due to war) would like to go back home," Mr. Senaratne said.

Analysts said it would not be easy to get Tamil civilians to resettle in Jaffna as they feared reprisals from the LTTE if they returned there to live under Sri Lankan rule.

But the analysts said the army also must win the hearts and minds of the refugees if President Chandrika Kumaratunga's "peace package" was to succeed.

The package, announced in August, offers a political solution to the war, with wide-ranging devolution to minority Tamils. The LTTE, which broke a truce in

April, has shunned all invitations to discuss the proposals.

Tigers stage kamikaze attack

Tamil Tiger guerrillas Tuesday launched an abortive suicide attack against police in eastern Sri Lanka, as the government declared the capture of Jaffna, military officials said.

The LTTE tried to drive an explosives-packed truck into a camp of the police Special Task Force (STF) in the district of Batticaloa and fought gunbattles with troop reinforcements, an official said.

"The truck exploded as a sentry opened fire to stop it," the official said, adding that one STF commando was killed and two others were wounded. It was not immediately clear how many rebels were in the truck.

Tiger guerrillas ambushed army troops who rushed to the aid of the STF commandos, wounding at least four soldiers, officials said.

The Tigers also brought reinforcements across the Batticaloa Lagoon, but the military deployed a helicopter gunship to attack rebel boats, killing or wounding an unspecified number of guerrillas, officials said.



Victorious Sri Lankan troops display a large haul of arms captured from Tamil Tiger guerrillas in their final assault to take over the rebels' northern Jaffna stronghold (Reuters photo)

Roh charged over bribes; inquiry turns to Chun's slush fund

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean prosecutors Tuesday indicted former President Roh Tae-Woo on charges of accepting hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes and opened a new slush fund inquiry into his predecessor Chun Doo-Hwan.

The new developments came as signs grew that South Korea's month of political sleaze was beginning to take its toll on the ruling party. The Democratic Liberal Party chairman and three other key officials said they planned to resign.

Mr. Roh, in prison since Nov. 16, was formally charged with accepting \$373 million from 35 business groups as bribes in return for government favours and contracts, prosecutors said.

Seven leading businessmen and three former Roh confidants were also indicted on bribery charges but they were not detained.

Senior prosecutor Ahn Kang-Min told a press conference: "Mr. Roh received money from 35 business leaders, with the amount ranging from 500 million won (\$648,000) to 25 billion won (\$32.4 million) each."

The prosecution has so far confirmed that Mr. Roh raised 418.9 billion won (\$551 million) for a slush fund while in office from 1988 to 1993, including the \$373 million that have been confirmed as bribes.

Also indicted and jailed together with Mr. Roh were Mr. Roh's former top security aide Lee Hyun-Woo and Hanho Group Chairman Chung Tae-Soo.

Mr. Lee was charged with helping Mr. Roh raise and hide the slush fund.

Chung Tae-Soo was charged with giving \$13 million to Mr. Roh in return for help in developing housing projects in 1990.

Ten others were indicted but not detained. They included Daewoo Group Chairman Kim Woo-Choong, and the heads of Samsung, Dong-A, Jinro, Daelim, Dongbu and Aecho Construction.

Investors said the action taken against the corporate chiefs was lenient and the Seoul bourse rose 1.2 per cent in response.

Former Trade Minister Kim Jin-Ho, former bank chief supervisor Lee Won-Joe and ex-presidential advisor Kim Chong-In were also indicted but not detained on charges of helping Mr. Roh take bribes.

The prosecution said Mr. Roh had used 140 billion won (\$184 million) to finance the 1988 and 1992 National Assembly elections but did not say which politicians received money from Mr. Roh.

No mention was made of the potentially explosive issue of Mr. Roh's financing backing for candidates who ran in the 1992 presidential election.

"The prosecution will continue investigating whether any money from Roh's slush fund has been funneled to political circles," Mr. Ahn said.

Press reports said the prosecution would make a bombshell revelation about Mr. Roh's deals with opposition leaders Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Jong-Pil as part of President Kim

Young-Sam's plan to purge them.

Kim Dae-Jung, who has admitted accepting \$2.5 million from Mr. Roh for his 1992 presidential bid, said: "the people will never buy any probe results unless the money President Kim received from Mr. Roh is revealed."

Seoul District Prosecution Office head Chui Hwan said prosecutors were also investigating a recently discovered fund believed to have been amassed by Mr. Roh's predecessor, and 1979 military coup colleague, Chun Doo-Hwan.

The dong-a daily quoted prosecution sources as saying that Mr. Chun's fund was "bigger than Roh's."

Mr. Roh has been in jail since Nov. 16 after he admitted to raising a \$650 million slush fund in "donations" from businesses.

Mr. Chun was jailed Sunday on charges of masterminding the 1979 coup, which was followed by the massacre of pro-democracy protesters in the southwestern city of Kwangju in May 1980.

Mr. Roh and Mr. Chun and their coup plotters will also be charged with the killings in Kwangju, which left some 200 demonstrators dead and 1,000 others injured by an official count.

The jailing of the two general-turned-presidents has already triggered backlashes, with DLP Chairman Kim Yoon-Hwan and three other key party leaders saying they would quit.

Mr. Kim told journalists he had been put in "a situation where I cannot carry out my duty."

Cops under the gun for strip poker

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — When they weren't chasing crooks, some Minneapolis transit cops apparently used their computer to play strip poker, a newspaper said. Metropolitan Council Transit Operations officials said they removed the adult game "Strip Poker II" from the department's computer network following a complaint about the transit police from a female worker. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, which obtained a copy of the game, said the first names of two female employees were attached to computer-generated female figures used in the game.

Madonna takes home two fashion awards

NEW YORK (R) — Superstar Madonna won two awards for her unique fashion sense at the first annual VH1 Fashion and Music Awards, a glitzy celebration of the link between rock'n'roll and fashion. After model Claudia Schiffer and designer Karl Lagerfeld announced Madonna was the winner of VH1's Most Fashionable Artist Award, the star was surprised by her former husband, Sean Penn, who came out to hand her the award. Clad in a yellow pantsuit and copious blue eye shadow, Madonna hugged the actor, who smiled sheepishly and kept one hand behind his back to hold a cigarette.

Basinger settles case over Boxing Helena

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Kim Basinger has settled out of court with Main Line Pictures over a case brought against the star for backing out of the box-office flop Boxing Helena, a lawyer said. Basinger said she decided not to do the film — about a surgeon's unrequited love for a moody and selfish woman whom he keeps in a box — because she did not feel the character was sympathetic and because she would have had nude scenes. The role went to Sherrylyn Fenn.

Colombia eyes biological warfare on locusts

BOGOTA (R) — The Colombian government is studying the possible use of a "locust-eating" mushroom to fight an army of the insects devouring vital grassland in its eastern plains. A statement from the office of President Ernesto Samper said five varieties of the specially bred "locust-eating" mushroom, known as the "metarhizium," had been cultivated in a laboratory on the outskirts of Bogota in what it called another battle in the biological war against agricultural plagues. The mushrooms have proved highly effective in laboratory tests at invading test locusts with a micro-organism that eventually devours them, the statement said.

California's 'pillowcase rapist' freed

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — California's "pillowcase rapist" was released after nearly 17 years in prison and boarded a plane to Las Vegas, state prison officials said. Reginald Muldrew's release had sparked protests from rape victims' groups and California's governor, Mr. Muldrew, 47, was sentenced to prison in 1978 for the rape of four women. He was suspected of involvement in as many as 200 other rapes and 150 burglaries during the 1970s. He has been in prison since January 1979. He got his nickname because he covered the heads of his victims with pillowcases.

Chernomyrdin: Chechenya polls to go ahead despite blast

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov have agreed that elections in rebel Chechenya will go ahead regardless of an upsurge in violence, ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday.

TASS, quoting Mr. Chernomyrdin's press secretary, said the two men held an urgent meeting Monday night to discuss a blast that rocked the centre of the Chechen capital, Grozny, earlier in the day.

It added that they decided that "elections in the Chechen republic should take place despite all acts of terror and a scare campaign".

A powerful car bomb killed about a dozen people and ripped a crater in the street outside the offices of the Russian regional administration in central Grozny Monday.

Precise casualty figures varied. Mr. Chernomyrdin's press secretary, Viktor Koonov, said the prime minister and Mr. Kulikov mentioned 14 killed. A separate TASS report from Grozny quoted the Russian military as saying five people died and 61 were wounded.

Some sources in Grozny had said Monday 18 people were killed. Estimates varied because people had hurriedly removed bodies to bury them before sunset, in line with local Muslim tradition.

Moscow is making preparations for Chechenya to take part in a Russia-wide parliamentary poll on Dec. 17 and also to vote for a new leader for the war-torn region.

Several candidates have put their names forward for the Chechen leadership poll. But rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, hiding

in the southern mountains, has condemned the election as illegal and his supporters have threatened to disrupt it.

Many fear Monday's attack may be the start of a spiral of violence in the run-up to the polls.

Some ordinary Chechens have already said they will not go to the ballot box because they are afraid both of rebels, who still control large pockets of the region, and patrols of heavily-armed Russian troops.

In a separate report, TASS said Mr. Chernomyrdin, who launched peace talks with the rebels in June after months of bloody fighting, was expected to discuss Chechenya with President Boris Yeltsin later Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin spent nearly a month in hospital after a mild heart attack on Oct. 26. He moved to a sanatorium outside Moscow last week.

Francophones adopt softly-softly Nigeria stance

COTONOU (R) — The French-speaking world called for restoration of democracy and the rule of law in Nigeria and defended its softly-softly stance as more effective than preaching at the military rulers there.

Leaders and delegation heads of the 47 members of La Francophonie, as the movement calls itself, pledged to play a full part in conflict prevention and become a voice of poor nations in the face of western pressure to cut back on aid.

They also urged French-speakers to hop onto the burgeoning electronic information superhighways, warning they risked being left behind by an information revolution dominated by the English language.

"You must not confuse efficacy for the tam-tam (sound of the African drum)," French President Jacques Chirac said.

A raft of resolutions approved by the leaders at the three-day meeting in Benin's main city Cotonou, included one line on Nigeria. "The heads of state and government appeal to the Nigerian authorities to work for the establishment of the rule of law and democracy," it said.

Mr. Chirac, Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien and summit host Nicéphore Soglo of Benin defended their Nigeria stance at a post-summit news conference.

"We prefer to be moderate in our expression and more effective in our interventions which are all the more effective if we are not in the position of giving lessons," Mr. Chirac said.

"La Francophonie may seem a bit timid for some but for me it's a start and a step in the right direction," Mr. Chretien said.

"Some say we have been timid but we think it's more important to be effective," Mr. Soglo said, adding that Nigeria was a key player in efforts to bring peace to Liberia.

The summit expressed concern about a threat of fresh conflict in central Africa after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, killings in Burundi and the refugee crisis they have spawned.

Angola's opposition suspends disarmament role in peace process

LUANDA (R) — Angola's fragile peace accord was dealt another blow when Angola's UNITA rebel movement said late Monday it would no longer take part in the disarmament of its forces in response to an offensive by government troops.

A statement issued at UNITA's headquarters in Bailundo in the central highlands Monday night said UNITA had decided to immediately stop the "quartering" of its troops in U.N. assembly areas under Angola's November 1994 peace accord forged in Lusaka.

Under the accord, "quartering" areas are assembly camps where UNITA troops are to be disarmed and processed before they are demobilised or absorbed into the Angolan army.

The statement said UNITA had decided to "reevaluate the whole application process of the Lusaka protocol."

It added: "The peace process in Angola is seriously compromised at this time. The attitude of the leadership of the government armed forces cannot be tolerated by UNITA."

The statement said government troops had occupied several areas of the country in violation of the accord aimed at ending nearly two decades of civil war.

A Joint Peace Commission monitoring implementation of the accord condemned Monday night the government offensive for the first time.

"The joint commission has condemned the recent government actions... These military operations are not allowed," U.N. special representative Alioune Blondin Beye said, noting the offensive began as UNITA started sending its guerrillas to the assembly camps.

Mr. Beye was speaking after a four-hour meeting of

the commission on which the government and UNITA are represented.

The joint commission had requested "an immediate halt" to the government offensive and would be sending a mission to the northern Zaire province to assess the situation, he said. It was not immediately clear why government representatives were condemning the government offensive.

Government troops last week captured the town of Quinzau and other positions near the Angolan oil town of Soyo on Angola's northern coast, UNITA said in the statement.

The offensive began the same day that UNITA troops began assembling at U.N.-supervised assembly camps.

"Peace has incalculable value for all Angolans, but lies and humiliations will be confronted," UNITA said in the statement.

Court clears way for Cape Town polls

CAPE TOWN (R) — A South African court cleared the way Tuesday for Cape Town to hold its first all-race municipal elections in May, seven months after most of the country.

Five judges of the Special Electoral Court overruled an attempt by the white-led National Party (NP) to shift financial responsibility for the debt-laden Khayelitsha black township from the

mainly white NP stronghold of Tygerberg to liberal central Cape Town.

The NP challenge had forced postponement of the local elections in Cape Town when most of South Africa voted last month.

The court ordered NP Provincial Minister for Local Government Peter Marais to "implement and uphold" the original demarcation of post-apartheid

municipal boundaries drawn up by an independent board.

Mr. Marais and Western Cape Provincial Premier Hennis Kriel said in a statement they regretted the decision but would accept the court's ruling, which settled an eight-month dispute with President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC).

Rybkin questions poll's legitimacy

MOSCOW (R) — The head of Russia's State Duma (lower house) Ivan Rybkin, questioned the legitimacy of this month's parliamentary elections, Pravda said Tuesday.

He was commenting in an interview on a clause in the election law which allows only parties and blocs that win five per cent or more of the national vote to qualify for seats.

With 43 parties in the race, many politicians have expressed concern that if only a handful pass the threshold these will end up with an artificially large proportion of the seats.

Mr. Rybkin was asked by the Communist daily whether a question on the Dec. 17 election's legitimacy might arise afterwards.

"Quite so," he answered, indicating he would like the Duma to reconsider the five per cent clause ahead of the poll — an unlikely prospect.

At the moment, most opinion polls show President Boris Yeltsin's Communist opponents well ahead in the party section of the poll, which accounts for half the 450 Duma seats.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose term ends next June, plays no direct role in the parliamentary election campaign. But he has given his tacit backing to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home Is Russia party, which is lagging behind the Communists in opinion polls.

Several presidential aides have indicated that the five per cent barrier leading to a parliament representing a minority of voters could provide grounds to consider the future Duma "unrepresentative" and probably unconstitutional.

The Constitutional Court has refused to consider the issue ahead of the ballot, but it could be raised again.

Burma military issues warning to Suu Kyi

RANGOON (R) — Burma's military government Tuesday suggested democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was a traitor and said she and her pro-democracy colleagues would be "annihilated" if they tried to destabilise the country.

The state-run New Light Of Myanmar and Mirror daily newspapers, both widely seen as mouthpieces of the ruling military, carried commentaries indirectly comparing Ms. Suu Kyi with a reviled 19th century traitor who helped British forces conquer Burma.

"True young patriots are well aware of all your activities and they will annihilate, holding hands with the people, anyone who makes the country unstable," the newspaper commentary said.

"If you really have a true desire to see Myanmar (Burma) develop, it is essential not to do as you are directed by the imperialists," said the commentary entitled: "Wither goes thou, Maung Ba Than."

More than 100 years ago, Maung Ba Than helped British troops capture Mandalay, then the Burmese capital, leading to the imposition of British colonial rule throughout Burma.

Ms. Suu Kyi, released from six years of house arrest in July, pulled her National League for Democracy (NLD) party out of a government-organised convention drawing up the guidelines of a new constitution last week, saying the proceedings were undemocratic.

The NLD's boycott of the convention, which has been meeting intermittently since January 1993, was the pro-democracy party's most significant act of defiance since Ms. Suu Kyi's release.

The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner has made repeated calls for talks on political reform but the ruling military body has yet to indicate it is willing to begin talks.

In her regular weekend meetings with crowds of people who gather outside her home, Ms. Suu Kyi has often called for patience and restraint in the campaign to end 33 years of military rule. She has also rejected government suggestions that she is trying to incite protestors to take to the streets.

Meanwhile a small group of students was prevented from holding a remembrance ceremony on the site of the old Students' Union Building at Rangoon University Tuesday, witnesses said.

Troops blew up the union building on July 8, 1962, four months after the military first seized power in a coup.

The day before the building was destroyed, troops put down the first of a long series of student protests against military rule.

Witnesses said the students abandoned their attempt to hold a ceremony to honour veteran student leaders after being told by authorities it was not allowed. There were no reports of any arrests.

State newspapers reported Tuesday several mass rallies by tens of thousands of people in support of the government's constitutional convention.

Rangoon-based diplomats as well as ordinary Burmese people have said in the past such rallies are stage managed by the government and most participants are coerced into going under threat of being fined or fired from their jobs if they are state employees.

Kozyrev: Russian policy on NATO is in disarray

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Russia could not decide whether to cooperate with NATO or to confront it, ending up with no real policy at all, Echo Moskvy news agency said Tuesday.

Mr. Kozyrev made his remarks to Echo Moskvy radio station Monday night, the eve of a scheduled visit Tuesday to Brussels where NATO foreign and defence ministers were meeting to endorse sending a 60,000-strong force to Bosnia to enforce a peace settlement.

The comments of the 44-year-old pro-Western minister provided further proof of his strong differences with Defence Minister Pavel Grachev over policy and style.

Gen. Grachev, while agreeing to Moscow's participation in the Bosnian force, has angrily warned NATO that Russia will consider forming its own military bloc if NATO goes ahead with plans to expand eastwards.

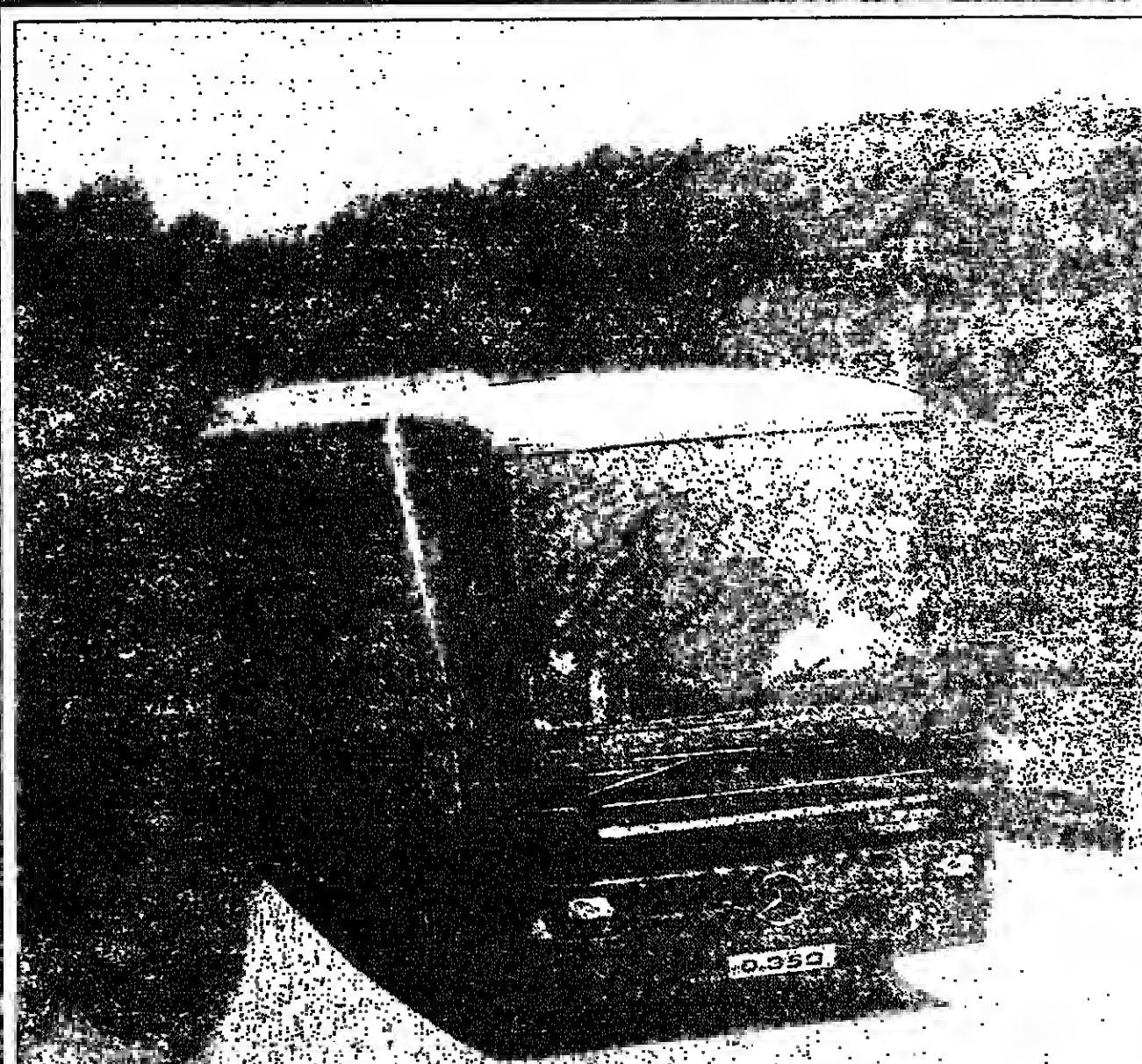
Mr. Kozyrev, who praised the nomination of Spain's Javier Solana as the new NATO secretary-general, said there were three courses open to Russia in relations with the Western

alliance — cooperation, non-cooperation and confrontation. Echo Moskvy quoted him as saying that big differences among Russian institutions made it impossible for Russia to agree on a programme of cooperation.

"In fact we have a policy of non-cooperation and it even happens that we in general don't have any policy at all in relations with NATO," he said.

Congratulations

PETRA TRANSPORT CO



You're on the road to success

BY CHOOSING THE BEST 50 TOURIST BUSES FOR YOUR FLEET



T.GARGOUR & FILS CO.



PETRA TRANSPORT CO.

T.GARGOUR & FILS GENERAL AGENTS FOR MERCEDES BENZ

Taiwan parliament erupts in brawl after elections

TAIPEI (R) — Legislators punched and wrestled each other Tuesday, and one wielded the speaker's gavel as a weapon, as Taiwan's parliament resumed work in a pugnacious mood after a general election that weakened the ruling Nationalists.

State television showed a legislator breaking the speaker's microphone, while another grabbed the speaker's gavel and used it to hammer rivals after a debate on a bill to renovate houses of military veterans erupted into a brawl.

The opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) objected to the bill on grounds that the renovations were merely a veiled vote winning tactic by the ruling Nationalist Party ahead of inaugural presidential elections next March.

Tensions rose as some DPP members walked out

of parliament to protest against a Nationalist move to have the review of the bill brought forward on the schedule.

A Nationalist majority then quickly voted to uphold the timetable change, prompting DPP legislator Chou Po-Lun to lead a storming of the speaker's podium.

Within seconds, a dozen legislators in dark suits were locked in a scuffle around the podium, punching, shoving or wrestling, and one standing on top of the speaker's desk.

"We hope to resolve the matter in a more peaceful fashion in the future," Shih Kun-Sung, the spokesman for the Nationalists' Parliamentary Committee, said by telephone later.

The new parliament is not expected to convene until February next year.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جورنال تيمز الاردنية مستقلة يومية سياسية نشرت بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Time to sound the alarm

THE JORDANIAN Environment Society's (JES) recently devoted a meeting to the examination of the ill effects of hormones, anti-bodies and other additives to food on human beings. That was a timely exercise in light of the widespread conviction here that the use of hormones in agricultural and horticultural products goes on unchecked.

The JES decision to put these issues on its agenda as priority items may yet succeed in drawing the attention of the ministries of health and agriculture, whose regulatory mechanisms have been unduly lax in recent times when it comes to the use of hormones, pesticides, insecticides and other chemicals that affect food products. This apparent indifference to risks to life has led many observers to conclude that the recent rise in cancer rates in the country is directly attributable to the overuse of chemicals and their derivatives in food production.

We, therefore, first invite the concerned ministries to respond to the charge that the use of many chemicals by our farmers and other food producers is not being sufficiently checked or controlled. Secondly, we call on these two ministries to start taking these matters more seriously by maintaining a close contact with the JES, whose record on keeping the tab on such dangers is second to none. Thirdly, we urge all concerned to keep the public abreast of all relevant information on this vital subject. In turn, consumers themselves can lend support to the effort of minimising health hazards contained in the food they consume by exercising more discrimination in their choice of foodstuffs. All these concerted efforts may yet succeed in saving lives in our midst. The first step, though, is to sound the alarm and draw the attention of all sides to the creeping dangers to our lives and health.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily pointed to the Russian defence minister's visit to Israel during which he signed agreements for joint cooperation in arms modernisation and arms production. Saying that the agreements cover the modernisation of Russian weapons, Tareq Masarweh said that most Arab states along with other Third World nations possess large quantities of these weapons and consequently their modernisation could be done via the Israeli arms industry and benefiting the Jewish state. The writer said the Russian-Israeli agreements should remind the Arabs that Jews held important leading positions in the creation of the former Soviet Union, and it was Jews that handed the secrets of the American nuclear weapons to Moscow, adding that such intimate relationship is now being revived through the new agreements through which both Moscow and Tel Aviv hope to secure large fortunes by selling modernised Russian and other weapons to the Third World, including the Arab states. Technology lies at the basis of present world trade, said the writer, who called on the Arabs to beware the dangers inherent in the Russian-Israeli arms production agreements and to try to absorb modern technology needed for the Arab World's development in various fields.

A WRITER in Al Dustour warned against the endorsement by the government or parliament of a draft amendment to the present Press and Publications Law because, he said, it contains provisions that are bound to turn the journalism business upside down. Mohammad Subeithi said that the draft amendment requires from an editor of a daily or weekly to have seven years of journalism experience before appointment, that an editor should not be shareholder of the publication's capital, that a publication should have a JD100,000 capital at least, that the government will be empowered to close down the publication in case its editor has been convicted of any violation for three times and that heavy penalties and imprisonment will be imposed on the violators of the law. The writer said that the journalists themselves should be consulted in the drawing up of the amendment and the government ought to put forth the proposed amendment to a general discussion by specialists and journalists at a specialised seminar before it can be endorsed and become law.



Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Clinton's Bosnia policy: A courageous and risky decision

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's decision to commit U.S. foreign troops to Bosnia is a courageous act of leadership. It is also a risky political move that may have a major impact on the future of his presidency.

Mr. Clinton inherited the crisis in Bosnia at the beginning of his term in office in January of 1993. During the '92 campaign, then-candidate Clinton had been strongly critical of President Bush's lack of resolute action to stop the slaughter and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. Mr. Clinton's first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell — a holdover from the Bush administration — continued to oppose direct U.S. engagement in Bosnia during the first period of the Clinton administration.

When in 1993 President Clinton did announce his intention to arm the Bosnians and strike at Serbian positions and sent Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Europe to build support for the move, he ran into a new obstacle: the reticence of the U.S. NATO allies to support this policy, which they believed would aggravate the conflict and endanger the peacekeeping forces stationed throughout the region.

As a result, the president found himself in a bind. The continuing tragedy in Bosnia tore at the conscience of America, but without European support the U.S. could not act. And so the nightmare continued.

Earlier this year the crisis on Bosnia came to a head. After Serbia overran two U.N.-protected safe areas in Eastern Bosnia and perpetrated new atrocities against Bosnian Muslims, the U.S. took strong action and struck forcefully at Serbian military positions. In the western part of Bosnia, the Bosnian-Croatian alliance (formed earlier this year with the assistance of U.S. mediation) turned the tide against the Bosnian Serb forces and gained control of large areas of the country.

It was this turn of events that moved the Serbs to the peace table. Four months of negotiation in the region and three weeks of intense talks in Dayton, Ohio, finally produced a peace agreement signed by the presidents of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

On paper the agreement has many positive elements. If fully implemented, it will retain the unitary Bosnian state and may, in the long run, restore harmony to the deeply divided country. But there are many "ifs" that must be considered. Above all, the success of the agreement will depend on the ability of the three leaders to control their constituents. If radical elements of any side break the restraint of the leaders, the conflagration could reignite.

Essential to maintaining the peace in the interim period is the presence of the NATO peacekeeping force whose role will be to assist

the parties to implement the agreement that they signed. U.S. participation and leadership of that NATO force will be the key to the success of the peacekeeping mission.

The decision to commit U.S. troops as part of a peacekeeping mission is indeed a risky gamble for Mr. Clinton, but one which he could not avoid. As disturbing as the Bosnian situation has been to the president and the American people, and as dangerous as a renewed and expanded war in the former Yugoslavia might be, the president realised that even higher

stakes were at risk. If the U.S. failed in its responsibility to provide leadership in a vital NATO mission in Europe, the impact on U.S.-European relations would cause incalculable damage to U.S. credibility and leadership worldwide.

So, despite the dangers of engagement, Mr. Clinton made his courageous decision to act — to provide the diplomatic muscle necessary to secure an agreement and to provide the military might needed to implement it.

If the waters in Bosnia are dangerous, the political

currents in the U.S. can only be described as treacherous. And with only one year before the 1996 presidential elections, the president is taking an enormous risk in confronting the isolationist sentiment that are particularly strong on the Republican far right.

With the exception of Senators Bob Dole of Kansas and Richard Lugar of Indiana, the other six Republican candidates for the presidency have blasted Mr. Clinton's decision to send U.S. troops to Bosnia. They have been joined by the radio talk show hosts

who are popular among grass roots Republicans. The rhetoric against the president is extremely harsh, but it has nonetheless found support among those in the U.S. public fearful of losing American lives in a foreign war they do not understand.

To their credit, Mr. Dole and Mr. Lugar seem to understand what is at stake, not only for the authority of the presidency, but for U.S. political leadership in NATO and the world. They have been joined by other thoughtful Republican analysts and by the overwhelming majority of newspaper editorial writers nationwide.

But the analysis of U.S. interests is not as great a mobilising force as isolationist fear. Congressmen are reporting hundreds of letters and calls to their offices that are 90 per cent against sending U.S. troops to Bosnia. And so the White House has gone all-out to mobilise public support for the president's decision. On a level equal to the campaign to secure passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the White House staff are working around the clock to turn the tide of public opinion.

The president's compelling speech to the American nation on Nov. 27 began to turn the tide. On the day before the speech public opinion was opposed to the participation of U.S. troops in Bosnia by a margin of 36 per cent-52 per cent. After the speech, that shifted to 46 per cent-40 per cent in favour of U.S. involvement.

That narrow margin must be expanded and then translated into pressure on Congress to support the president. While the administration feels hopeful that the more deliberative and responsible Senate will understand U.S. interests and support the president, changing the mind of the House of Representatives (dominated by newly elected members) will be more difficult. In late October and early November in two separate votes, Congress passed non-binding resolutions overwhelmingly opposing the introduction of U.S. troops in Bosnia. One vote passed by a margin of 315-103.

The president has the authority and the determination to send U.S. troops with or without specific Congressional authorisation — but as we have seen in the past, Congressional and public support is critical to sustain the mission, especially if, as expected, it proves to be a difficult one. That is why the White House is so engaged in building public support for this move and why the administration must remain engaged in sustaining public support during the coming months.

It is ironic to some that President Clinton, who was elected in 1992 as a president with a "sharp as a laser" focus on the domestic economy, has come to risk his presidency on the success of a difficult foreign policy mission.

Mr. Clinton has learned the lesson of world leadership. The U.S. cannot be an economic power and reap the benefits of an interdependent world economy if it does not continue to play a leadership role in the world's political affairs. Bosnia may be a dangerous mission with serious domestic consequences for the president — but failure to act would have been more dangerous and more damaging to U.S. interests worldwide.

Hommos hiatus

THE LINE of people waiting grew steadily longer. The elderly and more weary leaned against the wall and shifted their weight to ease the pressure on their feet. Every new arrival looked at the growing number of people awaiting their turn ahead of him, and took up his position at the end of the line, while muttering verses from the Koran to ward off wicked thoughts and undignified utterances from his mind and mouth. What were all these people waiting for? Charity, perhaps? A gratuity to which they would not be entitled save for the magnanimity of an overworked benefactor? None of that. They were waiting to pay their electricity bills.

Behind the counter, and separated from the crowd by a thick pane of transparent perspex, a covey of employees stood in a circle around the desk of the section chief, who was seated, naturally, to indicate his higher station. They dived in a matter clearly of great consequence. What could be so important as to preoccupy civil servants, forcing them to turn their backs on their work and on an ever elongating line of people? Was there a crisis? Could they be discussing the strategy of their section in the new five-year phased development plan? Well, actually, it was somewhat more modest than that. It was a plate of hommos, in which they were communally dipping with relish, and washing down every mouthful with long sips of hot sweet tea.

I broke the silence — Well, silence may be the wrong word. Silence cannot be expected to prevail in a place where civil servants are eating hommos and drinking tea. Better to say that I initiated a lively debate. Far be it from me to begrudge our toiling civil servants their hard earned sustenance; but I ventured to ask whether the repast had to be consumed during working hours. I should have said office hours, not working hours, because I was informed by the section chief, impatient at this impertinent intrusion, that a civil servant is allowed 15 minutes to have breakfast.

This was a new one. I already knew that our civil servants are allowed several increments of 15 minutes every day, during which to do their ablutions and say their prayers; now with an additional 15-minute break to eat breakfast, I wonder if it would not be simpler just to set one period of 15 minutes during which they should work.

Moreover, why does breakfast have to be consumed communally? I respect fully the instruction by the Prophet Mohammed that prayer, performed in community, is additionally blessed by God — though, while on the subject, it would be nice if we were equally attentive to the injunction, also by our noble prophet, that a job of work well performed is in itself an act of worship blessed by God. Why does work have to stop?

With a small measure of organisation and discipline, it would be possible for civil servants to take turns for their breaks, in such a manner that some of them attend to the work at hand, while others ablate, pray, eat, drink, read newspapers, do crossword puzzles, or whatever takes their fancy. Or is that too much to expect?

LETTERS

Iraqis have suffered enough

To the Editor:

ONE ASPECT of the dilemma of the Iraqi people that will in doubt have a shocking toll on the future prospects of Iraq has been growing at an alarming rate. That is the ever continuous emigration of the Iraqis, since the Gulf war, to various parts of the world.

The majority of the Iraqis who were able to leave and seek refuge in other countries were from among the middle class who form the core of the Iraqi society and upon whom the infrastructure of the country depends. The top brass of the Iraqi elite are to be found all over the world; they include university professors, engineers, doctors, economists, artists, chemists and others with a university or college degrees as well as technicians. Also among those who have left Iraq are young Iraqis who seek a new future for themselves. Of course there are many who have been unlucky in finding a refuge.

Even those who did manage, in various legal or dubious ways, to leave Iraq and settle temporarily in Jordan have to wait for months, mostly without work, for their immigration papers or visas. Many of them have to wait or return empty-handed.

Some observers have estimated the number of the Iraqi people who have left their homeland since the Gulf crisis in terms of millions, though no one could verify that. But when you add to them those who had died during and after the Gulf war and as a result of the economic sanctions, you can imagine the real size of the catastrophe. U.N. and Iraqi official figures lately put the number of children who died since the Gulf war at over 560,000.

Stories about the suffering of many of those people who seek refuge via smuggling routes are being reported. Many have died because of starvation, drowning in capsized ships due to overloading, suffocation while being transported in sealed containers and vessels and in different other ways.

Obviously, the reasons for those who are fleeing their country are mostly attributed to lack of security, food, medicine and the deterioration of every form of services including education, medical care, housing... etc. The

average salary of a government employee is around 5000 Iraqi dinars (ID) (and many get much less than that) while the basic need for an average family (4-5 people) is no less than about ID 200,000. !!

The world, people, organisations and governments; and in particular in the Arab World, should realise how bad the situation is and start to pay more attention to the plight of the Iraqi people, including those who had to flee their homeland for any reason. If this situation continues then the disintegration of the Iraqi society will be inevitable and might require decades to heal. On second thought, this might well be the ultimate aim of some.

The regime in Iraq has to bear its share of the responsibility for the miseries of the Iraqis, state of the country and society, and its possible disintegration; politically, economically and socially. This eventuality would be the result of the Iraqi regime's policies prior and during the Gulf war, and, more so its present arrogant policies.

The sanctions imposed by the U.N. on Iraq since August 1990 seem to be directed, at least in results and consequences, on the Iraqi people. There is no doubt that the leaders of the present regime have been hardly affected. Mr. Rifkind, the British foreign minister, said several days ago in reply to a question on the enforcement of economic sanctions against Iraq (for its execution of nine human rights activists) that the embargo, if imposed, will only harm the Nigerian people and will not force their government to change its policies.

Why does the West, then, continue its double-standard policies vis-a-vis Iraq and other countries?

The Iraqis are paying dearly for crimes that they have not committed. And even to those who think that a punishment was needed, isn't that enough? It is about time that the world realised the agony and misery of the Iraqi people. Their present leaders seem only concerned with tightening their grip on the country, regardless of the consequences.

Hassan Andeh,
Amman.

In this corner, Europe — and in this corner, the U.S.

Europe's snub of the U.S. at last week's Barcelona parley is the

latest of many differences between the two over roles in the

Middle East, David Makovsky, of the Jerusalem Post writes

A JOURNALIST ASKED French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette last month whether the U.S. would be invited to participate in the European-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona. He sniffed, "only as spectators, madam."

Indeed, as top representatives from 15 European and 11 southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, as well as the Palestinian Authority, gathered in Spain last week, the U.S. was conspicuously missing, as was Russia.

This was just the latest example of increasing U.S.-European differences over their roles in the Middle East. Some differences are policy-driven and others seem to be just plain pettiness about media profiles.

Some examples from the last few months: ■ The U.S. has accepted pleas by Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians to back a Middle East development bank. For the past year, Europeans, citing the failure of such a bank in Eastern Europe, have been fighting the bank tooth and nail.

■ The European Union (EU) always feels that it is not given its political due but just asked to contribute money to the Middle East. This resentment was underscored last year when no Europeans were asked to speak at the Israel-Jordan peace treaty ceremony.

Israeli officials claimed that they successfully interceded on Europe's behalf

this fall when Washington was reluctant to allow a European representative to deliver a three-minute speech at the Oslo II ceremony at the White House in September.

■ Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who, in absolute contrast to late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, is a renowned Europhile, was planning on leaving the U.S.-backed Amman economic summit for several hours last month in order to fly to Brussels and sign the new free trade pact with the EU. The U.S. got wind of Mr. Peres' plan and was in a hurry to insist that Mr. Peres cancel his trip so as not to rain on its parade in Jordan. The signing in Europe was delayed.

The question is whether all this adds up to something larger or is merely sound and fury signifying nothing. Does last week's Barcelona conference signal a new European assertiveness in the region and a willingness to rival or even collide with U.S. interests in the Middle East?

Europe insists that its goals are ambitious. This week, European foreign ministers told Foreign Minister Ehud Barak that a 15-year plan for a free trade area including European and Mediterranean states is

key in order to compete in the post-cold-war world with the two other growing trading blocs, the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific Rim.

Borrowing phraseology that may be reminiscent of the famed American Monroe Doctrine — which warned Europeans to stay out of Latin America at the beginning of the 19th century — Europeans could be heard in Barcelona talking about the Middle East as "their backyard."

However, a key constraint upon European influence is its lack of unified security and foreign policy strength, which can be summed up in one word: Bosnia.

Coincidentally, just days before Barcelona, the Dayton agreement was brokered by the U.S. to end the war in Bosnia, and Washington backed up this move by sending 20,000 troops to the war-torn area. Europe did not facilitate any such accord during years of slaughter in Bosnia, even though the Balkans are truly in the European "backyard."

Without a projection of force, it is hard to consider Europe capable of becoming a dominant power in the Middle East. After all,

Europe was happy to have the U.S. take the lead in the Gulf war and expel Iraq's Saddam Hussein from Kuwait, preserving the most vital interest of each in the Middle East, a steady flow of oil at reasonable prices.

Yet, beyond the talk, there is reason to believe that Europe cannot seriously rival U.S. interests. It seems that what Barcelona was really about was not the Middle East, but a much more tangible concern closer to home, namely North Africa — a source of instability which is pouring unwanted immigrants into Europe.

In separate interviews last week, both Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and U.S. ambassador to the European Union Stuart Eizenstadt made clear that the EU's primary interest now is not the Middle East, but North Africa, known as the Maghreb.

Mr. Barak said, "The Maghreb's instability has posed a migration threat to Europe, and therefore (it is) not surprising this is where European effort is likely to be concentrated for the foreseeable future."

It is estimated that at least 2.6 million Muslims

have entered Europe legally in the last few years, primarily from places like Algeria, and once illegal immigrants are added the count is higher. Not surprisingly, the final declaration at Barcelona called upon all parties to fight illegal immigration.

Europe's hope is that if neighboring Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco could be made economically and politically stable, fewer people would want to leave and Islamic fundamentalist militancy would lose its appeal. Not surprisingly, southern-tier European states — three of whom just so happen to hold the rotating leadership positions of the EU — have been the strongest advocates of an approach that blends more trade and aid linked to free market reforms.

Spain, France, Italy and Portugal believe Germany and northern Europe have been too fixated on eastern Europe and haven't sufficiently focused on the instability that could effect them as a result of violence in Algeria.

Therefore Barcelona was a turning point for the EU, which previously had allocated \$8 billion to support eastern Europe. Europe decided to put aside \$6.1 bil-

lion in grants and it is estimated that it will put aside an equal amount in loans to offer to Mediterranean countries over the next five years.

Most of the money will probably go to the Maghreb. Of course, it would be an even bigger deal if these southern European countries, with their notoriously protectionist agricultural lobbies, allow bigger agricultural import quotas to enter their shores from agrarian societies in Northern Africa as they promised.

Mr. Eizenstadt said that the U.S. can only be grateful to Europe for the EU discerning its "own enlightened self-interest."

He stated, "If the Europeans can help stabilize the Maghreb countries, this supplements our efforts in an area of tradition concern to the U.S., Middle East."

In dollar terms, the U.S. gives about the same amount of grants to Israel and Egypt in one year as the EU is pledging to give to 11 Mediterranean states in five years.

However, the EU call in Barcelona for partnership ostensibly extends to the Middle East as well.

Mr. Eizenstadt explains this by saying, "the Euro-

peans smarted from a feeling that when it came to the Middle East, the U.S. gets the glory of peacemaking, and the EU picks up the check. By extending the scope of their conference to go beyond the Mediterranean states and include the Middle East states, it wanted to show that it could be a major player. By creative use of its trade and aid leverage, it sought to raise its political profile."

Of course, it was the U.S.-supported Middle East peace process which enabled the Europeans to convene a Mediterranean conference as just a few years ago the idea that Israel would sit at a table with its Arab neighbors was unthinkable. Yet, with this achieved, Israel should have no illusions about European fiscal priorities, namely that it will suddenly be the beneficiary of billions of dollars of European largesse.

At best, apart from possible indirect benefits of warring Islamic fundamentalism in Northern Africa, senior officials like Mr. Barak say they believe Israel's main economic gain from Barcelona is special European trade access for its joint ventures with Arabs. Of course, if a Euro-Med trade-bloc truly forms in 15

years as the Europeans envisioned, all would be happy.

However, for now, expectations in Israel are modest, as they were when the EU and Israel upgraded their trade accord in Brussels last month. After many years of saying that trade was linked to Israel peace efforts, the EU's accord with Israel demonstrated no apparent reward for Israeli peacemaking effort.

The accord is expected to do little to redress Israel's staggering \$7.6 billion trade deficit with the EU, which nearly equals the European surplus in all the other Mediterranean states combined. The major leap made by this agreement was enabling Israeli technology access to European forums, but this is a move that could benefit Europe equally.

Having pictures taken in Barcelona as putative peacemakers seeking to bring Israel and Syria together might be nice for Europe, but it was not essential. There was no anticipation in Barcelona that the Europeans would actually produce a meeting between Mr. Barak and his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Sharaa, let alone broker a deal. At the end of the day, when it comes to peacemaking, it seems that Dayton is likely to trump Barcelona.

However, the fact that Middle East peacemaking is not Europe's strong suit should not matter since its core concerns are closer to home in North Africa.

King defers Saudi visit

(Continued from page 1)

Timing of the meetings behind the changes. "I think I will remain here until the Arab World for some time being," commented the minister. He declined to elaborate, but his comments were seen as a reference to the latest developments in the region.

The leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are scheduled to conclude a

three-day summit in Muscat, Oman, on Wednesday, and their decisions and resolutions are also seen significant to the shape of inter-Arab relations.

Another key event today (Wednesday) is the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres for talks with King Hussein described as important ahead of the Israeli leader's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Dec. 11.

No unilateral changes — Karaki

(Continued from page 1)

The government can count on majority support in the 9-member House. The opposition has failed to register any significant gains since the election of the 12th Parliament in November 1993. In last week's elections to the House's Permanent Bureau, the opposition — Islamists and leftists — also failed to acquire any seat.

If the government insists on introducing the amendments without passing first through the JPA as a representative body of journalists in the country, "then the association will take action," said Samir Hiyari, president of the JPA's Freedom Committee. "We will go on strike, lobby at the House" or seek an audience with the King. Dr. Karaki also said the government would not go back on democracy and impose censorship on newspapers.

"We will present an amended draft after consultation with all concerned parties," Dr. Karaki was quoted by the Jordan News Agency as saying at the meeting. "It will be a law of freedoms that limit violations, fill gaps and protect the nation."

The information minister criticised weekly newspapers, the Islamist Al-Sabeel in particular. In this week's issue, Al-Sabeel published a front-page article criticising the government's proposed amendments to the press law and a photograph of Egyptian journalists demonstrating against their government's attempts to impose restrictions on press freedoms.

Weekly tabloids "are trying to create problems through drawing groundless comparisons between the legislation of freedom in Jordan and other countries," Dr. Karaki said.

"We in Jordan are living in a civic and democratic society that tries to amend its laws through the legitimate constitutional channels in a civilised and democratic framework," he said.

The source said the monarch was planning to record a televised address to the nation soon to alleviate the rumors about his health.

For years, King Fahd has been diabetically overweight and suffered from arthritis. He had cut down his travelling because of his health.

Over the weekend, the king was reported to be improving and walking around his hospital suite. He was reported to be receiving family members and having meals with them.

According to Arab newspapers, Prince Sultan and Crown Prince Abdullah, who is standing in for King Fahd at the annual Gulf Arab summit in Muscat, are fierce rivals.

But Prince Sultan implicitly denied any power struggle when he told the cabinet that he hoped "King Fahd continues to support the causes of peace in the international community with the help of Crown Prince Abdullah."

Diplomats also doubted there would be a battle to succeed him, saying officials can ill afford such divisions at a time when their country is suffering from low oil prices and is confronted with an Islamic opposition.

Rabin assassin is indicted

(Continued from page 1)

The Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya at about 7:45 p.m. on Nov. 4 and boarded a bus to the rally site. He took off his skullcap, walked to the parking lot where Mr. Rabin's car was parked and waited there for about 40 minutes for the rally to end, the indictment said.

Mr. Rabin walked off the stage at 9:45 p.m. and approached his car, one of Mr. Rabin's bodyguards opened the car door, and Mr. Rabin was about to enter when Amir walked up and shot him three times from close range, according to the charges.

Yigal Amir was charged Tuesday with murder, conspiracy and carrying arms without a licence. Hagai Schwartz was indicted in a Haifa military court Monday. Prosecutors asked that the Amir brothers and Adani be tried before three judges, and listed 43 witnesses for the prosecution in the charge sheet.

Syria tells U.S. it wants peace

(Continued from page 1)

U.S.-Egyptian economic partnership.

The U.S. ambassador said he also discussed with Mr. Musa a planned stop by Mr. Peres in Cairo en route to Washington, where he is to meet President Bill Clinton on Dec. 11.

As the Assad-Ross talks got underway, Mr. Peres said his country was considering entering a defence pact with the United States which could help overcome Israeli fears of returning the Golan Heights to Syria (see page 12).

In an open letter to Mr. Ross, the Syria Times said the visit of the U.S. coordinator could "produce results if peacemaking emphasises setting goals and objectives or even devising a plan and later on using U.S. influence to nudge things along."

The English-language daily called for a more direct U.S.

intervention to unblock the talks through "pressure, a new mechanism or maybe an imposed solution."

"Brave steps for making peace should be taken in order to fully exploit the new openings created after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin," it said.

Syria wants to gauge how serious Mr. Peres is in actively pursuing the peace process unlike Mr. Rabin who has reportedly wanted to freeze talks temporarily and focus on the Palestinian track.

"Syria received positive signals from Peres and has responded because of its desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace," official Damascus Radio said.

Al-Baath, the daily mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party urged Israel to "show its good intentions and announce clearly, sincerely and publicly its readiness to pull out from occupied land to the June 4, 1967 lines."

NATO adopts Bosnia plan

(Continued from page 1)

that the UNHCR faced an uphill battle in convincing refugees to return to the Muslim-Croat federation under the landmark peace accord reached in Dayton, Ohio on Nov. 21.

The plan to be formally signed in Paris next week calls for the federation to control 51 per cent of Bosnian territory, giving the Serbs 49 per cent.

"Probably the most complicated return will be in the federation," she said, saying it would be difficult to convince old foes to now live together.

"We will be carefully monitoring and intervening to protect the rights of refugees returning," she said. The UNHCR on Tuesday opened an office in the Serbian Ilidza suburb of Sarajevo, which is due to

return to government control under the Dayton peace accord.

Meanwhile, French officials said a top French general who was recalled from Bosnia for criticising the Dayton peace accord will not return to the Balkans.

General Jean-Rene Bachelet, commander of U.N. troops in Sarajevo, was recalled to Paris at the weekend over remarks that the peace accord gave Sarajevo Serbs "a choice between a coffin and a suitcase."

Foreign Minister Herve de Charette called the remarks "regrettable." Gen. Bachelet held talks with Defence Minister Charles Millon on Monday afternoon. Officials said Tuesday he would be placed in another post in France.

GCC summit seen adopting firm stands

(Continued from page 1)

had sent a rare reconciliation message to the GCC through host Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ben Said. The message urged the GCC countries "to open a new page for the interest of all... (and) calling for reconciliation," the diplomat said.

It was not immediately known if the message had been discussed at the summit or in bilateral talks among the leaders when sensitive issues are usually discussed in detail.

The six states, which generally backed Iraq in its 1980-88 war with Iran, all fought alongside the U.S.-led military force which defeated Iraq in the Gulf war over Kuwait in 1991.

Oman and Qatar are both host to Iraqi ambassadors and Baghdad's envoy to Muscat, Khaled Al Samari, was invited along with the rest of the diplomatic corps to the summit's opening session. He was due to return for a state dinner on Tuesday.

Despite the message, the draft resolution blamed the Saddam Hussein regime for

the Iraqi people's suffering, officials said.

The draft also accused Iran of backing religious extremists in the Gulf and expressed concern about its rearmament programme, including its alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons, which Iran denies.

Militants are believed to have been behind the car-bombing in Riyadh last month that killed five Americans and two Indians, although no Iranian connection has yet been disclosed.

But Bahrain has blamed Tehran for inciting anti-government riots that began last December. Iran has denied involvement in both cases.

In an arrival statement Monday, Crown Prince Abdullah called for a coordinated strategy against terrorism.

"It's clear we're facing a common security issue because we're targeted by some lurking enemies" seeking to threaten the region, he declared.

The draft repeated the GCC's annual condemnation of Iran for failing to resolve a

dispute with the UAE over the strategic Gulf islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, over which Tehran claims sovereignty.

The draft resolution is expected to echo recommendations passed by GCC summits in recent years, including one for an integrated defence structure that has never materialised.

Specific decisions on security and defence are not expected to be taken this year.

Qatar's Al Watan daily published the draft resolution Tuesday and the government responded by shutting down the newspaper for a month.

The GCC has been discussing for the past two years the integration of their defence systems to form an early warning trip-wire around member states and boost the size and capability of a token existing joint force — the Peninsula Shield.

The summit was also to discuss the Middle East peace process, peace in Bosnia and trade links with other economic blocs, including years of discussions with the European Union to forge a free trade accord.

The GCC leaders also sought here Tuesday to agree on a new secretary general to head the GCC, delegates said.

Saudi Arabia's former ambassador to France, Jamil Al Hujailan, and Qatar's De-

PLO assails Peres' stand

(Continued from page 1)

resolution.

The move came after the Republican-run U.S. Congress voted in October to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by May 1999 in a decision that angered Arah and Palestinian leaders.

The U.S. delegate, Lane Kirkland, said the assembly should "not interject itself into this most complex and emotional issue."

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Yacobi, said the measure was a throwback to the years when the General Assembly embraced the Palestinian cause and adopted more than 30 resolutions per year condemning Israel.

"During the last three years, we have seen a positive change in U.N. resolutions pertaining to the Middle East... but there are still resolutions that are contrary to the new reality in the region," he said.

"We expect that the U.N. member-states will eliminate these anachronistic resolutions from the General Assembly's agenda. The time has come to refrain from the rhetoric of years gone by," he said.

The resolution also criticised governments that have moved their embassies to Jerusalem. Only Costa Rica and El Salvador have an embassy in the holy city.

PLO representative Nasser Al Kidwa told AFP that the PLO was prepared to ask the International Court of Justice in the Hague to intervene if the United States attempted to move its embassy to Jerusalem.

A similar resolution was passed in 1994 by a vote of 138 in favour with two opposed — Israel and Costa Rica — and 13 abstentions. The resolutions said that Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights "constitutes a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region."

Israel and the United States cast the only votes against another resolution demanding that Israel withdraw from all the Golan Heights to the line it occupied June 4, 1967, the day before the outbreak of war that year.

Although similar to resolutions adopted in previous years, this one for the first time specified the June 4, 1967 line, rather than just calling for a full withdrawal from the Golan.

The vote on this draft was 66 to two, with 79 abstentions.

The U.S. representative said this resolution, like others dealing with the Arab-Israeli dispute, complicated efforts by the partners to resolve their differences.

A third resolution, expressing full support for the achievements of the Middle East peace process so far and stressing the need for rapid progress on other tracks of Arab-Israeli negotiations, was approved by a vote of 148 to four, with one abstention.

The four negative votes were cast by Iran and Libya, which oppose the peace process, and by Syria and Lebanon, whose negotiations with Israel have so far made the least progress. Sudan abstained.

puty Foreign Minister Abdul Rahman Al Attiya are vying to replace Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi of the UAE, they said.

Saudi Arabia's candidate is supported by Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE and Oman, but Qatar is holding out for Mr. Attiya to be appointed for a three-year term, delegates added.

Dozens of meetings were held, including one between Prince Abdullah, and the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, as well as between Sheikh Hamad and the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

The three countries have still not resolved border disputes, an issue affecting relations at the heart of the GCC. Officially, territorial issues were not on the agenda.

Rabin

(Continued from page 12)

longer be stopped," he told mourners.

Earlier Tuesday, a group of Jewish leaders from around the world laid a purple and yellow flower wreath with the inscription "World Jewry" at Mr. Rabin's grave.

The delegation included representatives from the United States, Canada, Australia, Britain, South Africa and Mexico.

After the ceremony, the Jewish leaders met with Rabbi Yehuda Amital, a cabinet minister without portfolio in Mr. Peres' new government.

Hikes proposed in water charges

(Continued from page 1)

minister said. Unaccounted for water is that which is lost in the archaic water network or which, according to the minister, is "stolen."

The ministry currently categorises and charges water subscribers according to their consumption of water on a quarterly basis: 0-20 cubic metres (100 fils, cubic metre); 21-40 m³ (190 fils/m³); 40-70m³ (400 fils/m³); 71-100m³ (500 fils/m³) and 101m³ and above; (600 fils/m³). The capital cost of one cubic metre of water is between 800 and 810 fils, the minister said. Sixty-six per cent of Jordan's 500,000 water subscribers fall into the first two categories, consuming 28 million cubic metres of water annually.

"This means that 30 per cent of subscribers are consuming at least 70 per cent of (accounted-for) water," said Dr. Irshaidat. "They are also the ones who can afford to pay. They have a much higher return on their investment in water — JD 10 to 15 — and in the case of hotels, more."

The ministry's proposal, currently being reviewed by the cabinet, would increase prices for water consumption as follows: from 41-50m³ (4.8 per cent); 51-60m³ (6.7 per cent); 61-70 m³ (8.4 per cent); from 71-100 m³ (10 per cent); and from 101-250m³

(16 per cent) and above 250m³ (23 per cent). Hotels would pay 750 fils per cubic metre regardless of consumption.

The Ministry of Water expects that the increase in prices will generate a 15 per cent increase in revenues for the next year.

With the help of European donors Jordan four years ago started to change its inefficient and leaky water network, which will help bring down national expenditure on water, the minister said. Thus far, networks in Irbid, Zarqa, Ramtha and Salt have been replaced. Amman's network would take three years to be completed. But, Dr. Irshaidat said, raising the price of water to some consumers is the only realistic way to meet expenses.

"We are certainly not doing this for profit — we won't even break even, we just want to meet the cost of maintenance and operations," he said, reiterating that the government remained committed to maintaining subsidies. "We know that no one can afford the real cost."

The World Bank has granted Jordan an \$80 million loan for reforms in the water sector. The reform programme aims at more cost-effective management of water distribution and administration of the sector.

Arab Gulf countries strive to be on world tourism map

DUBAI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Arab Gulf states have launched a drive to attract tourists to their beaches and desert hinterland, especially during the warm and sunny winter months.

Dubai, already the UAE's trading hub, has embarked on half a dozen projects to build hotels and resorts along its beaches, including plans for an off-shore hotel touted as the world's tallest at 26 floors.

The UAE emirate of Abu Dhabi as well as the Gulf states of Bahrain, Qatar and Oman have launched similar efforts to draw tourists, although outside the summer months when temperatures rise to 45 degrees C (113 F) or more.

Weak oil prices are fuelling the drive for other sources of revenue.

A record 1.2 million business travellers and tourists stayed in Dubai hotels last year and as many as 4.5 million are expected in 2000, said Mohammed Ali Rashid Alabbar, director general of Dubai's economic department.

The single largest group of people comes from the other Gulf countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, but Mr. Alabbar added: "I would not under-

estimate the numbers (in the future) from the Far East and Europe."

Dubai wants to cash in on one of the fastest growing industries, with the number of tourists worldwide expected to reach 937 million people in 2010, double the number for 1990, according to the World Tourism Organisation (WTO).

This modern emirate in the southern Gulf offers tourists five-star hotels which serve alcohol, golf courses, horse and camel racing, water sports, and long stretches of beach as well as desert safaris.

Although the Asia/Pacific region is growing faster than others, "Dubai and Bahrain are good examples of emerging destinations," Amr Abdul Gaffar, a WTO representative, told the Emirates International Forum here this week.

The number of tourists to the entire Middle East is expected to double from nine million last year to 18 million in 2010 and the Arab-Israeli peace process is encouraging the trend, Mr. Abdul Gaffar said.

But the Middle East must still overcome its image of political instability and war, he said. "One of the main requirements of travellers is to be welcome and safe. There is a lot of effort to

make on the image side."

In the last two or three years Dubai, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar have all been successful in attracting more tourists, Tom Nutley, a director with the London-based Reed Exhibitions, said.

Dubai and the Gulf states are targeting "quality tourists" rather than the masses, partly by encouraging business travellers to stay longer and bring their families, tourism industry officials said.

Such a strategy is important in a conservative Islamic culture.

"You're not going to get backpackers. You're not going to get those who want sun, sand and sex," Mr. Nutley told AFP during a tourism conference earlier in the year in Bahrain. "It's not the disco, Costa Brava type destination."

Singapore became a tourist destination 10 years ago by encouraging businessmen in transit to stay longer.

"They were very clever. They turned one-night stopovers into three nights," Mr. Nutley said. "That appears to be happening here as well."

"Gulf tourism is growing by eight or nine per cent a year," he added.

But it is starting from a small base and "it's never going to be massive in terms of world figures," he added.

Economists: Australian economy slowing but still healthy

SYDNEY (AFP) — Economists predicted a minor slowdown for the Australian economy despite data which showed a record 17th consecutive quarter of growth.

Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data showed the economy grew at a rate of 1.6 per cent seasonally adjusted in the three months to September, reflecting an annual rate of 3.3 per cent.

The figures exceeded average market forecasts for a rise of 1.2 per cent for the quarter and 3.2 per cent for the year, but did not quite meet government forecasts.

Economists predicted the government would revise its 3.75 per cent growth forecast for the year to June 1996, dropping it to between 3.25 and 3.50 per cent.

A decline in rural exports, mainly due to falls in meat and wool, and a fourth quarter of slow activity in the housing sector were cited as the major reasons for the

economic slowdown.

"I don't think today's numbers could be characterised as soft but their composition suggests growth will be softer for at least one quarter, perhaps two," Schroeder economist Warren Tease said.

"There was strong export growth but was most of it caused by a build up in stocks, suggesting we will almost certainly have softer growth in the December quarter and perhaps into the March quarter as well," he said.

The next national accounts figures, due for release just before a widely tipped March 1996 election, were likely to show "continued softness in economic growth and perhaps the labour market too," Mr. Tease said.

Treasurer Ralph Willis described the figures as a "damn good result" and ruled out any change to economic policy effectively en-

ding hopes of an interest rate cut.

ABN Amro-Hoare Govett chief economist Susan Creighton said the figure "certainly doesn't affect monetary policy settings — that sort of growth is in the trend for sustainable growth."

"The economy has softened from the first half of 1995 but it's certainly not falling into a hole — it's still pretty steady slow growth," she added.

"It's now pretty obvious the government's going to be revising down their growth number... I suspect the government forecast will come down to 3.5 or 3.25 per cent," she said.

Dresdner Australia chief economist Rob Henderson said the Australian economy was sitting on a solid growth base, and was likely to remain so even if average gross domestic product (GDP) fell back from the latest figure.

France's turmoil points to heavy costs of EMU

BRUSSELS (R) — Building a single European currency is becoming a costly affair, and nowhere is the pain of adjustment more evident than in France.

Analysts say the social unrest on display in Paris points to one of the major flaws in the path towards European Monetary Union (EMU) — and inability to cushion the blow of tough budget measures designed to meet the Maastricht treaty's criteria.

With monetary policies geared towards maintaining a stable exchange rate and budget policies focused on meeting the treaty's arduous burdens, experts say there is no safety valve to relieve the stress caused by an economic slowdown.

"Once you've removed the monetary adjustment process through a lower exchange rate you create a horribly difficult set of tensions," says Robin Marshall, chief economist at Chase Manhattan Bank in London.

"France is now the most critical laboratory for this test," he pointed out.

But supporters of EMU, such as European Commission President Jacques Santer, argue that France's troubles are not due to its drive to qualify for a single currency.

"I must say that the problems in France are not linked to EMU," Mr. Santer told Reuters in a recent interview. "EMU is not an antithesis of social performance. It is creating a new modern society with new jobs for the future."

Yet the French government, having put through a draconian budget austerity plan, now faces a growing risk of having to raise interest rates to defend the weakening franc.

Such an outcome would damage its already fragile economy and worsen its unemployment problem.

The need to maintain a stable currency, a central feature of Europe's monetary arrangement, is but a glimpse of what life will be like under

a single currency.

Under monetary union, economic decision-making will become highly centralised: One monetary policy, one exchange rate and, if Germany gets its way, tight-fisted rules on public spending.

Add on a relatively inflexible labour market and national governments have little room left to use traditional economic levers to balance the ups and downs of the business cycle.

"EU countries (particularly France) have a lot less room not only to depreciate their currencies to stimulate growth, but more importantly to ease monetary policy," say analysts at Chemical Bank in London in a recent report.

Under pressure to meet the treaty's 1999 deadline for EMU, governments have been forced to speed the pace of much needed economic and social reform. While most agree that such change is long overdue, the rewards are likely to be slow in coming.

"Everyone knows the pain of structural reform is upfront. The good stuff comes four or five years later," says Steve Englander, international economist at Smith Barney in Paris.

Without the option of slashing interest rates to offset painful budget cuts and tax increases, the only possible relief comes at the hands of the financial markets.

In the case of France, analysts say it is obvious that international investors remain sceptical as to whether the government can hold its ground.

Seen as an indispensable member of a future monetary union, France may be confronting a no-win situation. Strict adherence to the rules of monetary union threatens to widen the despair and resentment among its populace.

A reversal, or backpedalling from recent budget re-

forms, could prompt a sharp backlash in financial markets, further undermining its sluggish economy.

German press: France's strike movement endangering single currency

Meanwhile, the German press said that the general strike movement in France is endangering plans for a single European currency.

"The strike in France could turn into a conflict which not only throws into question the calendar for European monetary union but also endangers the European currency itself," the economics and finance daily Handelsblatt said.

In an editorial, it called on the Bundesbank to help out Prime Minister Alain Juppe by lowering its interest rates again when the bank's central council meets next week.

"Should the government yield to the protests and postpone restoring health to the social protection system, it would then be much more difficult, if not impossible, to reduce the current deficit," the paper said.

"The financial markets would regard this ill and put the French currency under pressure," the paper added.

"The French unrest is a foretaste of the difficulties other European governments would have to face if they went to earn their entry tickets into the currency union through financial savings," Handelsblatt also said.

The Saarbruecker Zeitung said President Jacques Chirac "is paying the bill today for his demagogic election campaign."

UAE debt put at \$11.5b

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) owes around \$11.5 billion to foreign creditors and the debt is set to increase in the next two years, an official study has said.

Without identifying the creditors, the study by the Abu Dhabi crown prince's office said the current debt included \$10.3 billion in short-term debt and \$1.2 billion in long-term obligation.

The debt will grow to \$12 billion in 1996 and around \$12.5 billion in 1997, said the study.

From 31 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), the debt will rise to 31.7 per cent in 1996 and 32.3 per cent in 1997. Debt servicing will increase from \$1.15 billion to \$1.20 billion and 1.25 billion.

It was the first public official account of the UAE's debt, which was apparently sought to shore up deficits in the budget and the balance of payments and finance large civilian and military projects.

The shortfalls are in contrast with the situation during the oil boom 15 years ago when the UAE and other Arab Gulf countries enjoyed huge financial surpluses amid higher crude prices and production.

Despite the debt, the UAE is classified as a key creditor country as its state-run Abu Dhabi Development Fund has provided more than \$2 billion in loans. Billions of dollars have also been extended by the government to fellow Arab countries and other developing nations.

The study expected exports to grow from \$25.92 billion in 1995 to \$26.47 billion in 1996 and 26.74 billion in 1997. Imports will drop from

\$21.01 billion to \$21 billion. Oil exports, the country's main source of income, were projected to rise from around \$12.53 billion in 1995 to \$12.74 billion in 1996 and then decline to nearly \$12.67 billion in 1997.

The study put the UAE's proven oil reserves at 98.1 billion barrels and gas at 5.8 trillion cubic metres (193.3 trillion cubic feet).

Meanwhile, an official said the UAE is trying to eliminate the deficit in its federal budget through an increase in fees on services and other non-oil revenues.

Naser Al Nuweis, finance and industry ministry undersecretary, said he expected the 1996 budget shortfall to be equivalent or lower than the 1995 forecast deficit of around \$290 million.

"The deficit in the UAE budget is natural compared with the deficits in other countries," he told Al Khaleej newspaper.

"There are no fears that it will rise. On the contrary, it will gradually decline as the government aims for a balanced budget in the near future," he said.

The UAE has suffered from a budget deficit most years over the past decade due to weak oil prices. But projected shortfalls were slashed or turned into surpluses some years due to spending cuts through the year and extra contributions by the two main oil producing emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Under the Gulf country's interim constitution, the federal budget should be financed by its seven sheikhdoms. But in practice, almost all the funds come from those two emirates.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look to some good friend who can assist you when some unexpected trouble arises and show gratitude. Drive with care while on the highway.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Expressing good will at this time for one who is a close tie, you can gain fine benefits, also of a romantic nature will be given.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look for the right ideas for handling a private affair today from a trusted advisor. Later this evening get out with congenials for a good time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Gain the support of good friends at this time if you want to put over some worthy new enterprise, also in personal affairs.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are highly inspired and can be very successful if you put your ideas to work promptly at this time. Contact people for more information.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day today to get problematical affairs of a practical nature solved nicely and forget all that daydreaming.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to understand what a close tie really wants from you and can do much to please him or her. Keep promises which you have made.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a fine day today for coming to an agreement with those who are usually headstrong and make later tonight brighter thereby.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Early this morning get into career activities ahead of you. Handle them in such a fashion which you get excellent results. Be kind at home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan recreation you want to have in the next few days with congenial friends and associates. Then get busy on practical matters.

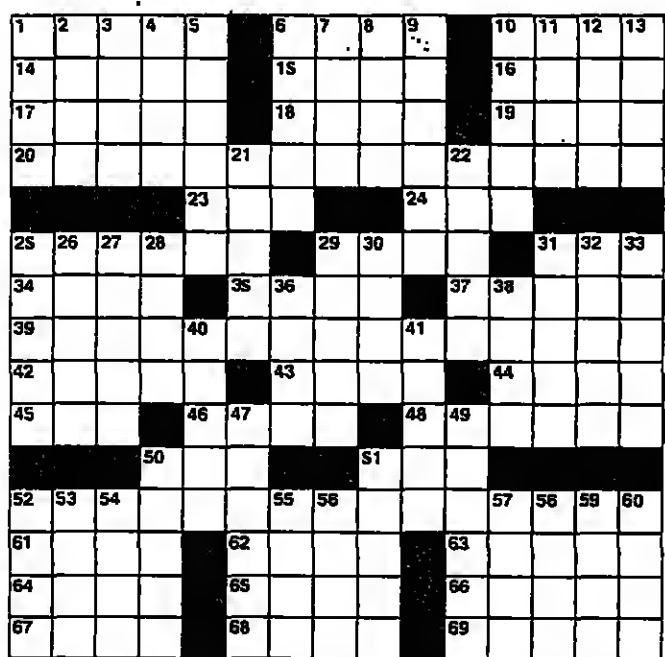
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to the wishes of kin and try to please them more at this time. Remember that charity begins at home so do whatever you can.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Discuss with outside fellow associates how you can become more prosperous at this time and be more direct with them.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

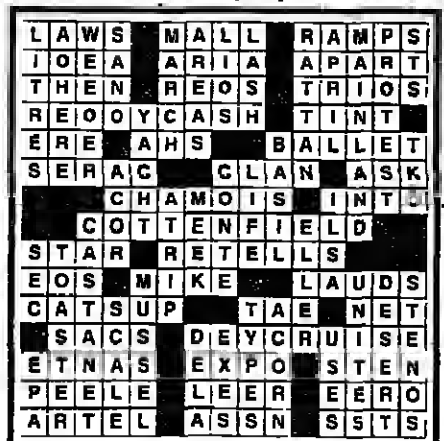
THE Daily Crossword by Sefton Boyars

- ACROSS**
- 1 Frets
 - 6 Short distance
 - 10 Unit of matter
 - 14 Aggressive one
 - 15 Sound of contentment
 - 16 Constructed
 - 17 Referring to bees
 - 18 Man or Skye
 - 19 Aid in crime
 - 20 Movie about a beer for the ages?
 - 23 Expert
 - 24 Wallach or Whitney
 - 25 Bigot
 - 29 Kind
 - 31 Deed
 - 34 Statesman Abba
 - 35 Singer James
 - 37 "— of the Jungle"
 - 39 Movie about an evil liqueur?
 - 42 Slogan
 - 43 Further
 - 44 Arthur of the courts
 - 45 Sault — Marie
 - 46 Melody
 - 48 Ran
 - 50 Viper
 - 51 Govt. gp.
 - 52 Movie about a crew of toppers?
 - 61 Truani
 - 62 — time (never)
 - 63 Rod of baseball
 - 64 Printing word
 - 65 Frost's "The — Not Taken"
 - 66 Silly
 - 67 Cart without sides
 - 68 Odense native
 - 69 DeMille or Moorehead



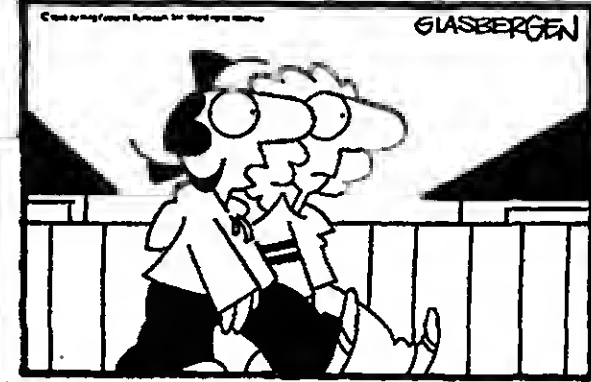
© 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

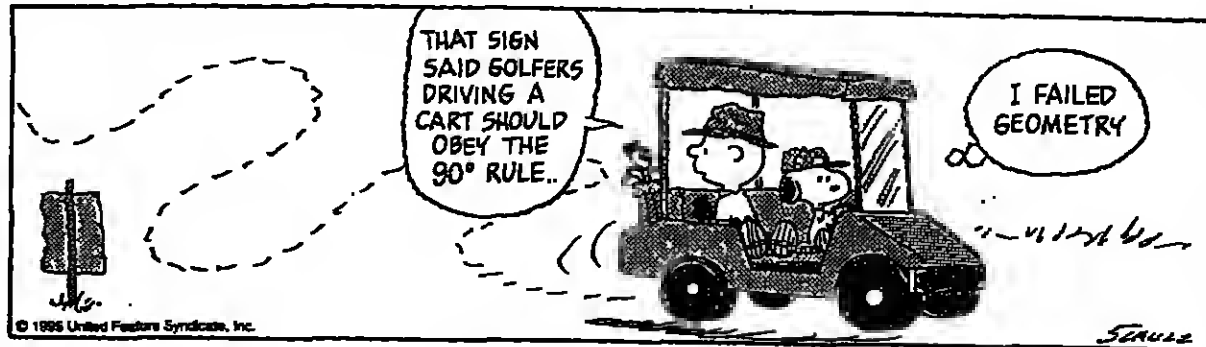


- DOWN**
- 1 Use a dirk
 - 2 Error, briefly
 - 3 Heroic
 - 4 Fragile
 - 5 Monica and Barbara
 - 6 Malice
 - 7 Tooth of a kind
 - 8 Writer Gardner
 - 9 Give priority to
 - 10 Violinmaker
 - 11 Proscribed
 - 12 European river
 - 13 Apportion
 - 21 Group of eight
 - 22 Extreme
 - 25 Lots
 - 26 Master monk
 - 27 Social group
 - 28 Monogram item: abbr.
 - 29 Scarf
 - 30 Louls
 - 31 Orthodox sect
 - 32 Hiding place
 - 33 Cornered
 - 36 Comparing word
 - 38 Alack's partner
 - 40 — last! (slow down)
 - 41 Computer connection
 - 47 Toward a higher place
 - 49 Yellow-flowered tree
 - 50 Narrow street
 - 51 Residence
 - 52 Sobering gp.
 - 53 Pitcher
 - 54 Fafana of song
 - 55 Portico
 - 56 Ol one mind: abbr.
 - 57 Pealed
 - 58 It was Persia
 - 59 Hawaiian goose
 - 60 Rams' dams

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



debt
\$11.5b

French strike stumbles at private sector hurdle

PARIS (R) — Despite trade union appeals for France's 12-day-old strike to spread beyond the public sector, the movement failed to catch on in private sector companies on Tuesday aside from a handful of isolated protests.

Most of the stoppages that did disrupt private sector firms were not over the government's welfare reform plans that have fuelled a crippling rail strike but over narrower issues like jobs and pay.

The communist-led CGT and non-partisan Force Ouvrière (F.O.) unions had cal-

led a "powerful day of action" in both the public and private sectors for Tuesday to try and force the conservative government to withdraw its reform plans.

In the public sector, the strike spread beyond its bastion in the SNCF railways to include schoolteachers and hospital workers but mobilisation was far from total.

The CGT said 80 out of 100 distribution centres at electricity and gas utility EDF-GDF were affected, with 30 per cent of the workforce on strike.

Post office management said 84 out of 135 sorting centres had to close down, but only 17 per cent of the workforce was on strike. Five per cent were on strike Monday.

At state-controlled Renault, the local branch of the

Qatar creates first industrial bank

DUBAI (R) — Qatar's government and seven local financial institutions Monday agreed to set up a bank to finance industrial projects in the oil-rich Gulf state.

The Bank for Industrial Development will provide soft loans, with easy term installments, to small and medium projects in the emirate, which is trying to diversify a non-oil industrial base, officials said.

Finance, Economy and Commerce Minister Mohammad Bin Khalifa Al Thani said the bank, to be operational by March, would assist new and current projects.

"The bank will also help them to raise funds and acquire technology from international sources at reasonable terms," he said after attending a ceremony to sign the bank's charter. "It will play a pivotal role in encouraging entrepreneurship in the private sector, which is given top priority."

Sheikh Mohammad signed for the government, which will have a 50 per cent stake in the bank. The rest is split between the half state-owned Qatar National Bank, with 20 per cent, Qatar's Navigation and Qatar's Insurance, each with a 10 per cent share.

Doha Bank Ltd., the Commercial Bank of Qatar, Al Ahli Bank of Qatar and Al Khaleej Insurance Company will hold five per cent, 2.5 per cent, 1.5 per cent and one per cent respectively. The industrial bank has a paid-up capital of 200 million Qatari riyals (\$58.8m).

The eight-member board of directors will be formed soon, with four seats going to the government. Its chairman will come from the private sector shareholders.

socialist-led CFTD union joined the CGT in calling stoppages. The two unions represent around 70 per cent of Renault's workers. But the private sector, a testing-ground in the clash between unions and the government because union membership is less strong than in the civil service, proved reluctant to rally to the strike cause.

Only 9.8 per cent of France's total workforce are union members, the lowest rate in the OECD club of 25 industrialised states.

Unions called strikes at tyre-maker Michelin's Clermont Ferrand plant and industry conglomerate GEC-Alstom. In Tonlouse, assemblies and work stoppages were planned in a few firms including satellite maker Alcatel-Espace and U.S. mobile phone firm Motorola.

The CGT said 96 per cent of the workforce at Perrier mineral water stayed away from work Tuesday. In the southern port of Fos, strikers disrupted oil shipping and prevented two tankers from completing operations.

Almost all the private sector protests were on restructuring or similar company issues rather than welfare.

EDF-GDF staff are worried about the impact of European deregulation, defence industry workers about government budget cuts and consequent layoffs.

Union officials say however that the protests' timing reflects opposition to government austerity.

"The protests may be about other issues but they mirror a growing feeling of discontent with government policies and austerity," one official said.

Both private and state firms have been affected by the strike from the outset, with stoppages in rail and Paris bus and metro services affecting travellers, commuters and goods.

According to an official at the CNPF employers' association, the main impact last week had been in the Paris region. But with the widening of the strike to postal services, businesses in the provinces were also suffering, particularly small companies with tight cash-flows.

Israeli firm cuts off Palestinians' phone links

GAZA (R) — Israel's telecommunications company has cut the Palestinian self-rule areas' international telephone links to press for payment of a phone bill, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday.

Mohammad Skaik, director-general of the Palestinian Authority's Department of Communications, said he was discussing payment of the estimated \$8 million when the Israeli Bezeq Company cut off Gaza and Jericho's access to international dialing last Thursday.

"We told them we are not refusing to pay. We just asked for details for the telephone bill and instead they cut off our international links," he said.

Bezeq spokesman Roni Mandelbaum said the Israeli state-owned monopoly was forced to act because there were no signs that the Palestinian Authority was about to pay. He said the Palestinian Authority had not paid since February.

"We cannot afford to subsidise the telecommunications of the Palestinian Authority when the Palestinians do not respect their obligations towards us," he said.

Bezeq continued to provide international telephone links to the self-rule areas after Israel withdrew from Gaza and Jericho in May 1994. Mr. Skaik said the International Telecommunications Union provides international dialing codes only to sovereign states.

Financial Markets			
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close 4/12/95	Tokyo Close 5/12/95	
Sterling Pound	1.5566	1.5534**	
Deutsche Mark	1.4398	1.4385	
Swiss Franc	1.1619	1.1685**	
French Franc	6.2938	6.2928**	
Japanese Yen	101.55	101.58	
European Currency Unit	1.2723	1.2727**	
* 100 Yen to 1000 Yen			
** European Opening & Bid in Amman			
Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	6 MTN
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.56	5.37
Sterling Pound	6.43	6.51	6.12
Deutsche Mark	5.87	5.68	5.62
Swiss Franc	4.25	4.20	4.17
French Franc	6.25	6.25	5.95
Japanese Yen	0.25	0.25	0.25
European Currency Unit	5.50	5.44	5.31
Interest rate rates for amount exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
* 30 days			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7088	0.7100	
Sterling Pound	1.0844	1.0892	
Deutsche Mark	0.4915	0.4940	
Swiss Franc	0.6955	0.6985	
French Franc	0.1414	0.1421	
Japanese Yen	0.6974	0.7009	
Dutch Guilder	0.4390	0.4412	
South Korean	*****	*****	
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444	
Belgian Franc	*****	*****	
* Per 100			
Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Lebanese Lira	1.6620	1.6780	
Libyan Lira	0.044100	0.044600	
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1892	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3010	2.3670	
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945	
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.4330	1.4410	
UAE Dirham	0.1922	0.1933	
Greek Drachma	0.2802	0.2809	
Cypriot Pound	1.5800	1.5550	
* Per 100			

Precious Metals			
Date: 5/12/1995			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	
Gold	386.55	7.50	Silver 5.22 0.108
* 30 days			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7088	0.7100	
Sterling Pound	1.0844	1.0892	
Deutsche Mark	0.4915	0.4940	
Swiss Franc	0.6955	0.6985	
French Franc	0.1414	0.1421	
Japanese Yen	0.6974	0.7009	
Dutch Guilder	0.4390	0.4412	
South Korean	*****	*****	
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444	
Belgian Franc	*****	*****	
* Per 100			
Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Lebanese Lira	1.6620	1.6780	
Libyan Lira	0.044100	0.044600	
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1892	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3010	2.3670	
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945	
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.4330	1.4410	
UAE Dirham	0.1922	0.1933	
Greek Drachma	0.2802	0.2809	
Cypriot Pound	1.5800	1.5550	
* Per 100			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One U.S. dollar	1.3668/87	Canadian dollar	1.4332/42
	1.6050/60	Deutschemarks	1.6520/62
	29.47/51	Dutch guilders	4.9530/80
	1597.4/8.9	Swiss francs	20.47/51
	101.20/30	Belgian francs	6.3170/20
	6.5270/70	French francs	5.471/71
	6.3170/20	Italian lire	1.4126/35
	5.471/71	Japanese yen	7.7355/65
	1.4126/35	Swedish crowns	
	7.7355/65	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		Singapore dollars	
		Australian dollars	
		Hong Kong dollars	
One sterling	\$1.5428/38		
Gold (ounce)	\$386.70/387.20		

Daily

HUDD chief reveals plan to reform housing strategy

☆ YOUSEF HIYASAT, director-general of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), has revealed an intention to separate the two functions that HUDD currently performs. As such, there will be two independent entities: one concerned with building housing projects on commercial basis for low-income groups throughout the Kingdom and the other to follow up the implementation of the national housing strategy and liberalise the market to ensure an active private sector participation in providing more housing to people of limited income. Mr. Hiyasat explained that it would be possible to establish governmental or private companies to build housing units during the coming stage after introducing new reforms in the housing sector and improving the investment climate in the area of housing to limited-income groups.

Another study carried out by HUDD has revealed that setting up a secondary mortgage market carries all the elements of high success. Mr. Hiyasat pointed out that the most appropriate form for secondary real estate financing in Jordan was the secondary mortgage fund (SMF) method as it is commonly known.

The SMF working mechanism, Mr. Hiyasat explained, involves setting up an organisation that would provide long-term housing loans to commercial banks against obtaining mortgages given to those banks by their clients. In order to have the necessary funds, the organisation would issue long-term bonds to interested investors, such as insurance companies or pension funds, whose investments are usually of a long-term nature. Such a method, Mr. Hiyasat said, is the most suitable for the Jordanian market as it does not go beyond being an intermediary process between those investors seeking long term financial investments and those institutions in the primary market extending housing loans. In other words there will not be transactions to purchase real estate loans from the primary market entailing legislative implications regarding the transfer of the security from the bank selling the (real estate) loan to the other party buying the mortgage (Al Dustour).

Wholesalers blame retailers for keeping coffee prices high

☆ KEY IMPORTERS of coffee blame merchants for keeping prices high despite lower international prices. A major importer says the cost of importing one tonne of "excellent" Brazilian coffee is \$3,600 or JD 2,000. The amount means that a kilogramme after roasting and other services should sell for JD 3.500. Within this equation, a retailer would be making JD 0.500 profit per kilogramme, the importer said noting that merchants are making higher profit by selling a kilogramme between JD 4 and JD 5 and sometimes as high as JD 6. Merchants counter that they are maintaining current prices because they have stocks that are subject to prices before falling on the international market and, as such, more time is needed for new shipments to arrive and be sold at lower prices (Al Rai).

Public restaurants to be classified in two categories

☆ THE MINISTRY of Supply has completed a study to classify some 5,000 public restaurants which are not within the tourism classification list. The study, which will be reviewed by a special committee next week, aims at encouraging public restaurants to improve their work quality and service. The classification will break those restaurants in to two categories: Those that are close to being on the tourism list and others that cannot be on the ordinary level. As such, the first category public restaurant will be allotted to charge higher prices (Al Dustour).

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI
JEWELLERS

Gems of the world . All birthstones in 18 & 21 K gold . Unique designs .

Amra Hotel Shops
6th circle, Amman .

Furnished Apartment For Rent
In Um Uthaina, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, ground floor, telephone. Other apartments and villas furnished/unfurnished for rent or sale.
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605, 810609, 810520

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:
• **JUMBO photo size 30% larger**
• **Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm**
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042 Swedish tel: 823891

A SECURE Hotel Sweifiyeh
Flat O.TEL SECURITY HOSPITALITY GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel FLAT O.TEL
الاجلة للفندق
المطبخ بمستوى عالمي جديد
863944 - 816690

Cheers Cafe
Hamburgers + Pizzas
ELITE CAFE Sweifiyeh
816690
At Torino

SANABEL REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
Furnished apart.
3 bedrooms
3 Bathrooms
Tel. available-Garage
Jabal Amman
5th circle
for further details please call
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

Your Address in Amman
CRYSTAL
Quality Furnished Suites
One and Two Bedrooms
Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay
5th Circle - 692672

EURO DOLLAR
RENT A CAR
Make Car Rental Simple
Shmeisani
Tel: 693399

SHENWAN GARDENS CHINESE RESTAURANT
Typical Chinese Food
Stuffed Chinese Chicks
Open 11:30 - 2:30 & 6:00 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shg Al-Arab Street
Um Uthaina Commercial Centre
Tel: 801174
Once Tasted Always Loved

Teppanyaki Sashimi Sushi
For Res. 812497 - 814118
Mecca St. Daoud Center

Jerusalem & Bethlehem
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR EARLY BOOKING
Ask about our special New Year package of CAIRO
Jerusalem Express Travel
Amman (Abdali) 885195 (Jordansham) 822151
Vibed 277007, Zargh 982516, Agatha 314891

Live Music Night
Lunch & Dinner
SHMESANI TEL 680093

Shopping at AL-UM STORES
makes my Ma happy & elegant inspite of the EXTRA WEIGHT I am causing her!
Al-Um store
Insurance Building
Jabal Amman
3rd circle
Tel: 656490
Maternity & Children's wear

THE FIRST & ONLY
FRESH PORK MEAT IN FUHAIS
DAILY SLAUGHTER AT OUR FARM
FRESH CUTS TO YOUR TASTE
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL:
(079)28878 SHOP OR 644028 OFFICE

French Cuisine
Abdoun - Tel: 819564
Mobil Phone - (079)29339

NOUPOZ Restaurant
Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle
Tel: 642830
WELCOME DINNER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COCKTAILS, SNACKS & LIVE MUSIC

AVIS RENTACAR
RENT A PHONE
when you pick up your keys
We try harder
Tel. 699420

CROWN HOTEL
INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL
SAUNA & JACUZZI
FITNESS ROOM
SQUASH COURT
TEL 755180
SALES OFFICE 60843 - 690157
RADIO & TV STATION RD.

ASSARAYA
Rent a car
Head Office
Tel. 06-684771 / Fax 684973
Aqaba Office
Tel. 03-316265 / Fax 316265
Emergency Call 24 Hours
079 / 21526
Shmeisani King Abdullah Gardens

3 spots up for grabs in Champions League quarterfinals

LONDON (AP) — Five clubs are into the Champions League quarterfinals. Three others will sneak through with at least one team in the hunt looking for divine help.

"There are few miracles, but sometimes they happen," said PLC Porto manager Bobby Robson, describing his Portuguese side's predicament.

This is the situation as the chase for Europe's most important club title comes down to the final games Wednesday in group play with the top two in the four groups advancing to the quarterfinals March 6.

The four leaders with a spot are Greek side Panathinaikos in Group A, Spartak Moscow in Group B, Juventus of Italy in C and defending champion Ajax in Group D. In addition, Borussia Dortmund has clinched second place in Group C.

That leaves three second-place slots up for grabs. In Group A, it will be either FC Nantes or Porto going through — and Nantes has a slight edge. The French side — slightly weakened by suspensions and injury — will advance if it wins at home against Panathinaikos. The match is meaningless for the Greek team, which might make it easier to handle for the French.

Nantes will be weakened by the absence of suspended midfielders Bruno Carotti and Benoit Calet. Defender Christophe Pignol and midfielder Jean-Michel Ferri are battling injuries and doubt.

If Nantes loses, Porto will qualify with a victory at Danish side Aalborg. Porto won their first game 2-0, but Robson is concerned about venturing north to a cold, frozen pitch.

If Nantes draws and Porto wins, the two will be tied on points but the French team would go through because it has scored more away goals in their two tied head-to-head games. Nantes has two away goals and Porto has none.

Group B is a similar two-team race between Legia Warsaw and Rosenborg of Norway.

Legia advances if it wins its home game with Spartak Moscow, which has won all five games. For Spartak — which won the first game 2-1 — the match is largely meaningless.

If Legia draws or loses, Rosenborg will go through with a win at English side Blackburn. The Norwegians will also qualify with a draw if Legia loses.

"I think we are well prepared for the match with Spartak," Legia striker Jerzy Podbrozny said. "The result will be determined here, at Lasienkowska (the team's home ground). We are not going to wait for Rosenborg's failure at Blackburn," Podbrozny added.

The two places in Group C are decided, leaving Wednesday's two games here without consequence. Borussia Dortmund vs Glasgow Rangers and Steaua Bucharest vs Juventus.

Group D's final spot is there for Real Madrid's taking. The Spaniards — playing well lately with a core of young players — need only a draw at Swiss side Grasshoppers to advance to the final eight.

"We hope to continue playing this way," said 19-year-old midfielder Raul Gonzalez. Real Madrid may also be able to count on Spanish international defender Fernando Hierro, who is expected back from an injury.

Hungarian side Ferencvaros must win at Ajax — the Hungarians lost the first game 5-1 — and pray Real Madrid losses to claim one of the final eight spots.

In UEFA Cup play, five third-round, second-leg games are on Tuesday, with another Wednesday and two on Thursday.

Bayern Munich and AC Milan, two of the favourites to reach the UEFA Cup quarterfinals, are in good shape, another, FC Barcelona, may struggle.

Bayern, with Jurgens Klinsmann scoring all his team's first leg goals, takes a 4-1 advantage into the second-leg match at Portuguese side Benfica.

AC Milan — finalists the last three seasons in the Champions Cup — holds a 2-0 advantage going into the second-leg at Sparta Prague as it chases its first ever UEFA Cup title.

Barcelona got a 1-1 draw in a hard-fought, first-leg game at Spanish rivals Sevilla, but will be favoured at home in the second-leg match.

"We know that we are favourites because we will play at home," said Barcelona forward Jose Maria Bakero. "For Barcelona in UEFA, we are a big club."

The third Spanish team in the UEFA Cup — Real Betis — is on the ropes after a first-leg loss 2-0 at French side Bordeaux Girondins.

International sports set to return to Sarajevo

LONDON (AP) — Now peace has returned to Sarajevo, international sports looks set to follow.

The city that hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics will stage a specially arranged athletics meet in an attempt to bring normality back to the war-torn Bosnian capital.

The meet is scheduled for Sept. 9, 1996, with Olympic president Juan Antonio Samaranch and the IAAF's Primo Nebiolo eager to support it.

The man who will help to put everything together is 67-year-old Rudolf Thiel, the force behind the prestigious Berlin meet. Thiel has a personal interest in seeing the meeting succeed.

"I was 17 at the end of the World War II in Berlin," he said. "The devastation I saw in Sarajevo reminded me of that. It was very sad."

While there has been no official confirmation from the IOC, Thiel understands that Samaranch will put \$1 million towards rebuilding the damaged Kosevo Stadium, which was heavily shelled but is in good enough shape to host soccer games.

Sources close to the IAAF have confirmed that officials are already working on the meet and Thiel says that leading athletes will go to Sarajevo at no expense to the organisers.

"More immediately, I have a meeting scheduled with Nebiolo to discuss television and marketing rights," said Thiel.

Russian sprint star Irina Privalova has already pledged her support.

"Sport is not always about money or politics. I'll go there for nothing," said the double world champion, medalist who raced in Belgrade in September for a nominal fee.

Dutch Olympic 800-metre champion Ellen Van Langen said she is also prepared to give her support to the unique venture.

The initial suggestion for the meet came from the Bosnians themselves and the official meet organiser is the president of Bosnian athletics, Mehmed Sokolovic.

Together with national Olympic committee president, Stjepan Kijacic, Sokolovic approached Thiel at the IAAF calendar congress held in Paris at the end of October.

Thiel flew to Sarajevo to assess the chances of success and was surprised by

what he saw.

"The stadium was not as damaged as I'd expected," he said. "There were only two motor holes in the track about two square metres wide and the damage to the surrounding buildings was not that severe."

Thiel, an architect by profession, will join forces with the original architect to redesign the stadium. It will be Nebiolo's task to provide the athletes.

The Grand Prix final is to be held two days earlier in Milan and Nebiolo plans to transport the stars to Sarajevo for nothing. The IAAF president also hopes the athletes will be persuaded to perform at no cost although Thiel believes that it too much to hope for.

"It will be the end of the Olympic season, there will be a lot of tired athletes," said Thiel. "I think they may need some inducement."

The Berlin promoter said he would like the meet to be a special commemoration for the end of the war and for the 10,000 people who died in the city.

"It will be almost one year on since the war ended," he said. "I think it will be an appropriate gesture."

N. Korea shuns Atlanta Olympics

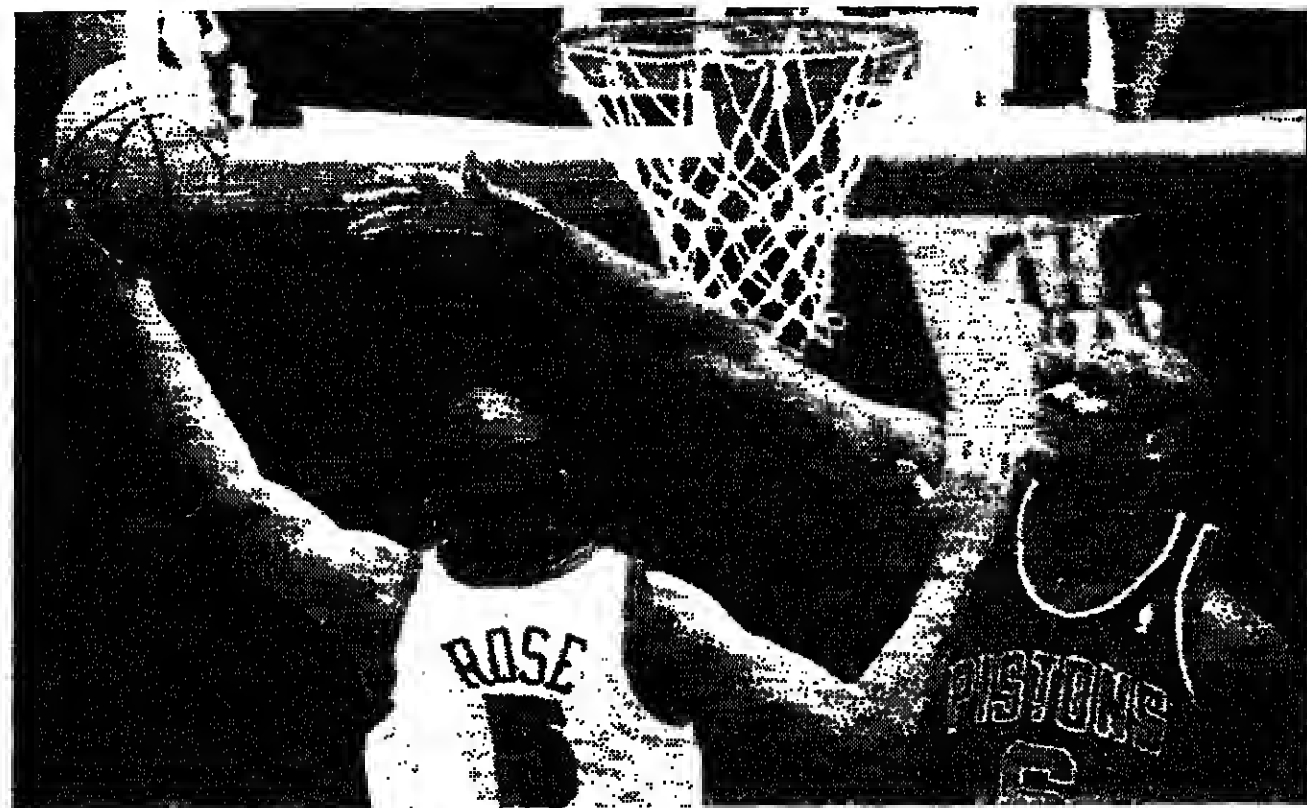
KARUIZAWA, Japan (AP) — North Korea has declined an invitation to take part in the Atlanta Olympics next year, International Olympic Committee (IOC) director general Francois Carrard said Tuesday.

"We didn't get an official explanation," Carrard said, adding the IOC had private talks with North Korea about its participation in what would be the biggest summer Games yet.

"They are very discreet about it. This is part of their pattern of behaviour in many areas of life," Carrard said after a meeting of the IOC executive board here.

Afghanistan was the only other country yet to respond to an invitation to the Games in the U.S. city but it could have been due to a "problem of communication," Carrard said.

"We are still going to try and make sure that the invitation was indeed well received."



Denver Nuggets' point guard Jalen Rose drives and scores on Detroit Pistons' forward Terry Mills in the first quarter of NBA action in Denver (Reuters photo)

Celtics end Heat streak in double overtime

BOSTON (R) — On the night the NBA finally reached agreement with its locked-out referees, the Boston Celtics beat the Miami Heat in double overtime Monday in a eight-marred game that sorely exposed the replacement refs.

Dec Brown scored 20 points, including a layup with 2:32 left in the second overtime that snapped a tie and lifted the Celtics to a 121-120 victory, snapping the Heat's five-game winning streak in a mean-spirited contest.

The game featured eight technical fouls and Boston centre Pervis Ellison and Miami forward Kurt Thomas were ejected late in the first half for fighting.

The Heat also lost forward Billy Owens, who separated his right shoulder in the first quarter when he collided with Celtics guard Todd Day chasing a loose ball. Owens, who left the flicetecre with his right arm in a sling, will be further evaluated Tuesday in Miami.

Thomas landed a left cross

that bloodied Ellison, who required two stitches to close a cut inside his mouth.

"I looked around, there was blood all over me. I thought I had been hit," said Boston coach M.L. Carr, referring to the fight between Thomas and Ellison.

"There's no place in the game for it."

Miami coach Pat Riley said: "I think Kurt's a good kid. I don't think he meant anything by it, but I think we're going to have to live with the consequences."

Ellison said: "When someone just catches you off-guard, of course you're going to react, and that's what happened."

"I had enough blood out there to be a hockey player, but at least in hockey, they let you fight."

Boston rookie Eric Williams sent the game into double overtime when he hit one of two free throws with 27.6 seconds left after being fouled by Alonzo Mourning. Boston forced overtime when Dana Barros intercepted

Sasha Danilovic's pass on the left wing and hit a three-pointer with 4.2 seconds to go in the fourth quarter. Mourning missed a runner in the lane on Miami's final possession of regulation.

"I can't believe they beat us. We're a better team than they are, a lot better," said Mourning, who went into a tirade over the officiating.

"That was horrendous, it was horrendous, it was awful," he said. "Those referees, they shouldn't even (work) high school basketball. I'm serious. That was awful, man. It makes me sick to my stomach."

"The whistle blew so damn much I thought there was an echo in the building. I'm serious, at one point, I was scared to guard people. I was afraid to touch them."

Replacement officials Tom Drakeford, Michael Malone and Scott Wall called 79 fouls. Six players — three on each team — fouled out and four others had five fouls. Miami was called for five illegal defences.

"I'm just glad to see we get the officials back," said Miami forward Kevin Willis, referring to the new contract ratified by the officials earlier Monday.

Dino Radja had 27 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics.

In Denver, Bryant Stith scored a season-high 22 points, including four in the final minute, as the Denver Nuggets beat the Detroit Pistons 85-82 for their fifth win in six games.

Jalen Rose added 15 points and Dikembe Mutombo scored 14 points for the Nuggets, who played leading scorer Mahmoud Abdul Rauf. The guard is suffering from post-concussion syndrome and is day-to-day.

Detroit's Terry Mills nailed a 70-foot heave at the buzzer, but the shot was ruled no good.

Grant Hill scored 23 points and Allan Houston added 21 for the Pistons, who remained winless on the road this season (0-6).

NBA referees ratify proposal from league

CHICAGO (R) — National Basketball Association (NBA) referees on Monday night ratified a contract proposal from the league ending a lockout imposed by owners since before the season began.

According to a league spokesman, the referees ratified a five-year contract that provides an 18.7 per cent salary increase in the first year and 60 per cent over the duration of the deal.

"We are pleased that the referees have voted to accept our proposal and we will be meeting with (union general counsel) Fred Slaughter tomorrow (Tuesday)," said Jeff Mishkin, the league's lead negotiator.

"If we can reach a signed agreement in the next few days, then the referees should be back on the court within a week."

Under the last proposal submitted by the NBA, referees with the least tenure would receive \$85,000 and the senior referees would earn \$261,000. In the final year of the agreement, the salary would range from \$90,000 to \$328,000.

WMVP radio in Chicago — where 53 veteran referees met on Monday to vote on the proposal — reported that the deal

was approved by a 27-26 vote. The vote came on the same night the league expanded crews of replacements from two to three.

The referees were convening for the first time since February. Only two of the 55 referees were absent from the meetings.

Slaughter had said the league's last proposal of five years was too long. The referees were seeking a 19 per cent to 22 per cent increase over a three-year contract.

The league decided to lock out the referees on October 1 after the union's rejection of a no-strike, no-lockout agreement that would have enabled the referees to continue to work while a new agreement was being negotiated.

Referees from the Continental Basketball Association are being used in regular-season games.

Due to anti-lockout labour laws in the province of Ontario, non-union officials cannot work in the city of Toronto, which is the home of the Expansion Raptors. Regular NBA refs have been used for Raptors' home games.

Lions roar past Bears 27-7, tighten Central Division race

PONTIAC, Michigan (Agencies) — Herman Moore set a franchise record with 14 catches for 183 yards and Barry Sanders had 183 total yards from scrimmage as the resurgent Detroit Lions defeated the Chicago Bears 27-7 Monday.

Detroit won for the fourth straight time, and sixth in a row at home, to tie the Bears and the Minnesota Vikings for second place in the NFC Central Division with a 7-6 record. The Green Bay Packers lead the division with a 9-4 mark.

Quarterback Scott Mitchell threw for three touchdowns passes including a 46-yard scoring strike to Moore, who broke through several would-be tacklers on his sideline romp for the first points of the game.

Mitchell later connected with Johnnie Morton on a four-yard touchdown and with Barry Sanders on a nine-yard touchdown as the Lions roared out to a 21-0 halftime lead.

"We had a great game plan



Detroit Lions' Shane Bonham (left), Heary Thomas (rear, center) and Luther Ellis (right) break through the Chicago Bears' line heading for Bears' quarterback Eric Kramer (12) in the second quarter during the Monday night NFL game at the Pontiac Silverdome (Reuters photo)

tonight and the guys got let them make things happen," said Mitchell. "It's my job to get it to them and Moore eclipsed the pre-

vious team record of 12 catches, set by Brett Periman the last two weeks. Moore has a league-leading 101 catches for 1,417 yards this season, also team records.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wimbledon ticket deadline nears

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Wimbledon has moved up its deadline to apply for tickets distributed by public drawing. The deadline is Dec. 31, a month ahead of the traditional Jan. 31 closing date. The 1996 application is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: All England Lawn Tennis Club, P.O. Box 98, Wimbledon, SW19 5AE, United Kingdom. Successful applicants will be notified in mid-February. The tournament opens June 24 and ends July 7.

World Cup draw to go ahead

PARIS (AFP) — The draw for the 1998 football World Cup will go ahead here on December 12 despite worries over the industrial strikes currently paralysing the French capital, it was announced on Tuesday. The decision was made by the World governing body FIFA and the French World Cup organising committee. "For the moment, we won't be changing anything," a FIFA spokesman said. But he added: "We have confidence in

the organising committee to take the final decision, they can appreciate the situation better than us." FIFA president Joao Havelange has been in Paris since Monday. A spokesman for the French organising committee added: "The situation will have to worsen suddenly for us to call off the draw."

Romanian star 'does a Cantona'

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Romanian star Danut Lupu could face a heavy sentence after "doing a Cantona" and attacking a fan who swore at him. The Dinamo Bucharest midfielder clambered into the stands and kicked the man — ironically, a Dinamo supporter — during Saturday's 0-0 draw with Ceahlanu Piatra Neamt. The incident recalled French international Eric Cantona's kung-fu kick at Crystal Palace supporter Matthew Simmons in January. The Manchester United player was subsequently charged with common assault and given a two-week jail sentence before it was cut back to 120 hours community service, during which he taught football skills to schoolchildren. He was also banned from all football for eight months and fined 10,000 pounds by an FA disciplinary commission.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144	CINEMA TEL: 699238	CINEMA TEL: 677420	AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" in Hi Citizen	in view of the travel of the actors abroad the theatre is closed until further notice
	Kevin Costner in WATERWORLD Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fishawi and Mahmoud Hamideh in A Woman Who shook the Throne of Egypt (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" Sylvester Stallone..in ASSASSINS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Nadia Al Jundi ..in A Woman Who shook the Throne of Egypt (Arabic) Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15	daily at 8:30 p.m. Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh	

Arab Clubs Championship

Wihdat face Yemen's Wihdeh today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Wihdat Wednesday face Yemen's Al Wihdeh in their third match at the 11th Arab Clubs Soccer Championship in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

While they gave their opponents a hard time before conceding the matches, Al Wihdat have pleased their fans and officials despite losing their two previous matches 3-2 to Kuwait's Kathima and 1-0 to Algeria's Bluzdad. They now have a very slim chance of advancing to the semifinal round to which only the top two teams of each group will qualify.

Group A includes Algeria's Bluzdad, Kuwait's Kathima, Yemen's Al Wihdeh, hosts Al Nasr in addition to Al Wihdat.

Group B includes Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia's Al Taraji, Bahrain's Rifa' Maghrebi, Sudan's Al Hilal and Palestine's Jabal



The Kingdom's champions, Al Wihdat

Al Mukabber.

Only Kathima and Bluzdad remain unbeaten in the 10-team tournament and currently top Group 1 with 6 points each. Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal and Tunisia's Al Taraji lead Group 2 with 4 points each.

Al Wihdat's delegation

includes 22 players: Yousef Al Ammouri, Naser Ghandour, Jihad Abdul Mune'm, Isam Mahmoud, Abdullah Abu Zameh, Faisal Ibrahim, Samer Bahlouz, Su-fyao Ahdullah, Jamal Mahmoud, Munir Abu

Hantash, Marwan Al Sha-

mali, Khaled Al Majdalawi, Othman Barhoumeh, Adnan Al Tawil, Walid Mikha'il, Ra'fat Ali, Yaser Aho Johar, Mohammad Afif, Shaher Hamdao, Hisham Abdul Mune'm and Mohammad Al Hawi.

Results of matches held so far:

Group 1
Nasr (S. Arabia) — Wihdeh (Yemen) 4-0
Kathima (Kuwait) — Wihdat (Jordan) 3-2
Kathima (Kuwait) — Wihdeh (Yemen) 4-1
Bluzdad (Algeria) — Nasr (S. Arabia) 1-0
Bluzdad (Algeria) — Wihdat (Jordan) 1-0

Group 2
Rifa' (Bahrain) — Jabal Mukabber (Palestine) 2-0
Hilal (S. Arabia) — Rifa' (Bahrain) 2-0
Taraji (Tunisia) — Hilal (Sudan) 1-0
Hilal (S. Arabia) — Taraji (Tunisia) 1-1

Schedule of Wihdat's remaining matches
Wednesday 6/12 Wihdat-Wihdeh
Friday 8/12 Wihdat-Nasr

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Kathima	2	2	-	-	7	3	6
Bluzdad	2	2	-	-	2	-	6
Nasr	2	1	-	1	4	1	3
Wihdat	2	-	-	2	2	4	-
Wihdeh	2	-	-	2	1	8	-

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hilal (S.A.)	2	1	1	-	3	1	4
Taraji	2	1	1	-	2	1	4
Rifa'	2	1	-	1	2	2	3
Hilal (Sudan)	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
Mukabber	1	-	-	1	-	2	-

Stade de France is name for World Cup final stadium

PARIS (AFP) — The host stadium for the 1998 World Cup final will be named the Stade de France, Sports Minister Guy Drut announced Monday after months of deliberations.

"It didn't take me long to make a final choice," Drut said. "It's the stadium that all of France has been wanting

for years."

Under construction of Saint Denis, a northern suburb of Paris, the Stade de France will be the showpiece of the 1998 World Cup finals, hosting notably the final on July 12 and the opening match.

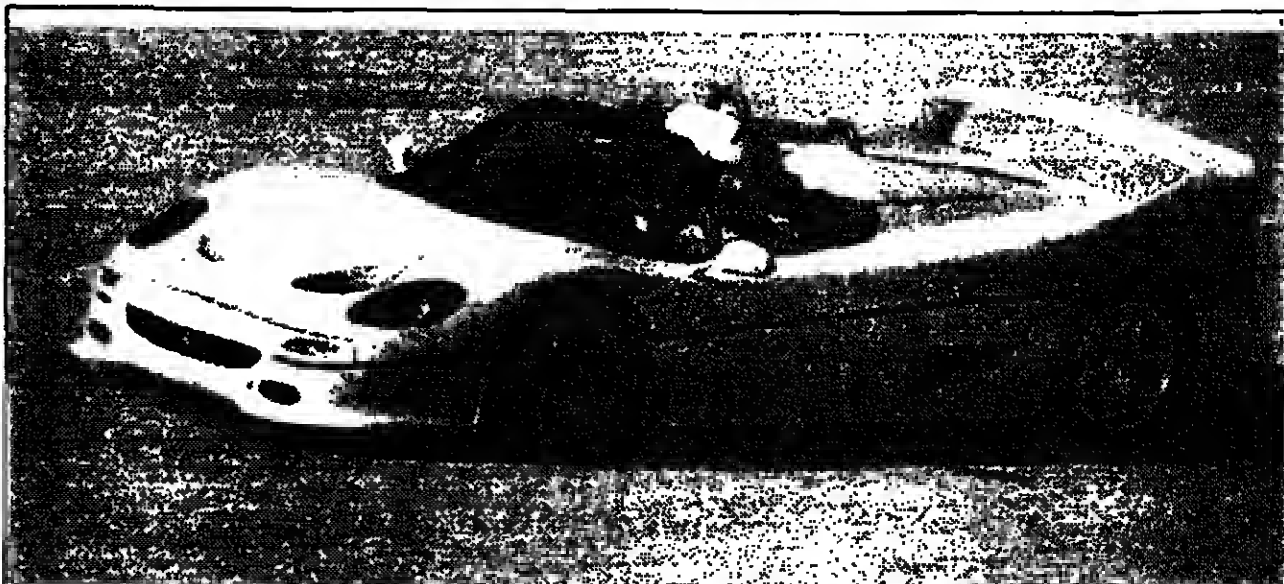
The French government launched a public competi-

tion to name the stadium with a 14-member jury under the chairmanship of popular television personality Bernard Pivot charged with drawing up a short-list.

But it was Drut, the 110 metre hurdles gold medalist at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, who had the final say. The jury ruled out select-

ing a name from the world of politics such as Charles de Gaulle and Francois Mitterrand or from sports such as Michel Platini.

It was Platini, the idol of French football during the 1980s and co-chairman of the World Cup finals organising committee.



The first Ferrari F50 takes a test lap at Texas World Speedway during the North American debut near College Station, Texas. The F50 top speed is 262 mph and the first of

349 cars that will be produced and sold in the U.S. Only 55 cars will be sold in the U.S., celebrating 50 years of Ferrari motor cars (Reuters photo)

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Fastlink is expanding in Amman and is starting operations in Aqaba and is seeking experienced, energetic, and career minded individuals who can work independently and undertake the responsibilities of participating in our rapidly growing organization. Fastlink provides an excellent working environment, a very attractive compensation package and an opportunity for advancement. All applicants must be fluent (read, write, and speak) in English and Arabic. To be considered for one of the following positions, please send your CV TYPED in ENGLISH with a recent photo to:



Jordan Mobile Telephone Services

JMTS

P.O. BOX 940821

Amman 11194 - Jordan

Fax 863-770

Amman Positions

1. **MIS Manager** - This person will be responsible for managing the MIS department including planning, administration and setup. The successful candidate should hold a degree in Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering or MIS and should have experience in Novell Network 4. UNIX. RDBMS and managing a highly trained staff. A minimum of 5 years experience is required. Applicants must undergo a test to ensure they are qualified.

2. **Network Administrator** - This person will be responsible for administration and support of a network that consists of the latest technology and architecture. The successful candidate must have experience in installing, supporting and training on a Novell network. UNIX, VMS knowledge is a plus. A minimum of 2 years experience is required. Applicants must undergo a test to ensure they are qualified.

3. **Project Manager** - This person must be a Telecommunication Engineer with at least 5 years experience in the marketing, sales and project management of telecommunication systems. This person must be acquainted with international signaling standards such as R2, R1, SS7 and should have extensive experience in X.25, modems and CCITT standards. This position requires extensive international travelling.

4. **Marketing Analyst and Planning** - This person should have 2 years experience in market planning and analysis. The individual must have experience in statistical analysis computer software.

5. **Sales Representatives** - This person should have at least 2 years experience in sales, preferably selling telecommunication equipment or P.C's. This person should have a car. Fastlink will provide transportation allowance.

Aqaba Positions

1. **Staff Accountant** - This person will be responsible for all accounting duties at our Aqaba shop. This will include collecting money from customers, inventory control, accounting, and any other duties required from the accounting side to run an off-site location. This person will report back to the Amman office and the position will be permanently located in Aqaba. A minimum of 3 years experience, a university degree in accounting and proficiency in Microsoft Excel are a must.

2. **Sales Representatives** - This person should have at least 2 years experience in sales, preferably selling telecommunication equipment or P.C's. This position is permanently located in Aqaba.

3. **Customer Service Representative** - This person should have at least 2 years working experience in the service sector dealing with customers. Computer knowledge is a must. This position is permanently located in Aqaba.

FOR RENT: 2 FURNISHED APARTMENTS
(In Abdoun) 3 and 2 bdrm APARTMENTS.
Heating, Phone, Satellite, Brand New
furniture, Secured intercom. 3rd floor, Nice view.
Please call: 680988

Jordan Times
Tel: 684311/ 699634

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HURSHI

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AAEQ10785 04 0A43 467
East opens the bidding with one heart.
What do you bid now?
- Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
49 0742 0AE8765 4AQ4
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
10 20 ?
What do you bid now?
- Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AEJ9882 0Vold 0AM82 4AE5
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1a 20 Pass Pass
7
What do you bid now?
- Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
48 086 0A54 4EQJ10854
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1a Pass 2a Pass
2a Pass 7
What do you bid now?
- Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AAE103 0KJ72 0AQ3 4EQ
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three clubs. What action do you take?
- Q. 6 - North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:
478 0AE10762 0A5 4EJ4
The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
50 Pass Pass 7
What action do you take?

YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CHOIR

AT THE
DE LA SALLE FRERE CHAPEL,
(JABAL HUSSEIN)

DEC. 5, 6, 7, & 8/1995 AT 8:00 PM

Tickets are available at the door

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:

THE YWCA

AT 641119, 641793

FURNISHED ROOM FOR RENT

One well-furnished room with bathroom, kitchen,
central heating, telephone and garden.

Location: near 4th Circle, next to Rozana Flowers.

Call: 641388

FOR RENT

Quality furnished apartment on third floor, 230 sq.m.,
3 or 4 bedrooms. Abdoun, near British Embassy.

For further details please call

Tel: 685608 or 810861

A CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITY

Leading Private Sector Consulting
Company seeks applications for:

- 1 - **Senior Administrative and Public Relations Officer.**
Responsible for administration of Amman office and maintaining regular contact with the clients on various activities.

Qualifications:

- * University degree in a related field
- * Minimum five years experience
- * Strong interpersonal skills, self confidence, and self motivation
- * High proficiency in English, both spoken and written.

2 - **Executive Secretary**

Responsible for secretarial work of the firm and management of office of the Executive Director office.

Qualifications:

- * Excellent secretarial skills with word processing
- * High proficiency in English, both spoken and written
- * Minimum of five years experience
- * Excellent knowledge of computers particularly Windows and Spreadsheets

Interested and qualified applicants should forward a detailed CV to the following addressed with envelopes labeled "Recruitment Applications ES (for executive secretary) and a PR for administrative and public relations officer:

P.O.Box 926143 Amman - Jordan

ANNOUNCEMENT
JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY
TENDER NO. 114/95
132 AND 33KV SWITCHGEAR, 33KV
CAPACITOR BANKS AND ANCILLARY
EQUIPMENT FOR TAREQ 132/33KV
SUBSTATION

Jordan Electricity Authority announces the availability of tender documents for Tender No. 114/95 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply C&F Aqaba and guarantee of 132kv & 33kv Switchgear, 33kv Capacitor Banks and Ancillary Equipment for establishment of Tareq 132/33kv substation.

Contractors who are interested to participate in this tender can obtain the tender documents from the Tenders Department at JEA-Main Building (located between the 6th & 7th circles, Jabal Amman) starting from Tuesday 5.12.1995 against a non-refundable amount of JD300 for each set of Tender Document.

Bids to be submitted to the secretary of tendering committee at the above address not later than 12.00 noon of Monday, 26.12.1995.

A bid bond equal to a Hundred Thousand Jordanian Dinars should be accompanied with the offer.

Director General
Dipl. Eng. M.S. Arafah

Israel considers seeking defence pact with U.S.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel was considering Tuesday a defence pact with the United States that would shake up its long-held policy of "self-reliance" but could reassure its people about returning the strategic Golan Heights to Syria.

The defence agreement depends "on how it is done, its conditions, and its timing," Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview with state television late Monday.

"Whether the United States is willing or not needs to be checked out," he added.

Mr. Peres will raise the issue when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Dec. 11, according to the daily Haaretz.

Such a pact could entail the stationing of U.S. military bases and personnel in Israel, which mark a major change in Jewish state's policy of fighting its own wars.

Mr. Peres said a defence pact with the United States was considered during the era of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister after the country's creation in 1948.

"I did not rule this out during the Ben-Gurion era, nor did Ben-Gurion," he said.

The leading opposition candidate in next year's U.S. presidential elections, Republican Senator Bob Dole,

said last week he was in favour of a defence pact with Israel.

The Clinton administration may also be inclined to such an agreement to "solidify Israeli public support for a peace accord with Syria," said David Makovsky, an Israeli foreign relations expert.

Amir Oren, a military analyst, said: "Israeli territorial concessions could be compensated by an American presence in the region that would dissuade an Arab attack, particularly on the Golan plateau."

Security arrangements to accompany any Israeli withdrawal on the Golan have been a major stumbling block in Israeli-Syrian peace talks that began in 1991 and ground to a halt six months ago.

Yossi Beilin, a close advisor to Mr. Peres and the minister in charge of the peace process, has for several years expressed his support for an American "umbrella" to reinforce Israeli security, based on the model of the NATO alliance.

Such an umbrella would be significant expansion of the strategic cooperation agreement signed between Israel and the United States in 1988.

Mr. Peres' comments are a departure from the position of his slain predecessor Yit-

zhak Rabin, who feared such a defence agreement would adversely affect Israel's image in the United States.

Defence ministry director David Levy has opposed the move for fear it would limit Israel's ability to retaliate on its own if attacked, the Jerusalem Post reported.

The late general Moshe Dayan, defence minister in the 1960s, said "Israel would never ask American soldiers to fight for it."

According to former Israeli ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenne, "such a pact could increase the deterrent effect between Israel and its neighbours and reduce the appetite of its enemies to start a war."

"But it could also reduce our sovereignty in the area of security," he said.

"We would have to obtain the U.S. green light for reprisal attacks in Lebanon, to free hostages such as Entebbe in 1976 or to bomb nuclear reactors, such as in Iraq in 1981," Mr. Rosenne said.

A defence pact could also entail the stationing of U.S. military bases in Israel, like those in Turkey and Germany.

"All attacks against Israel would then always inevitably be an attack against the United States," he said, adding that despite everything, "Israel can only count on itself."



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan receives the 1995 'Woman of Peace Award' from M. Fanafani, president of the 'Together for Peace' Foundation in Rome

Princess Sarvath awarded 'Woman of Peace' prize for her efforts in education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan on Tuesday returned home from Rome where she received the 1995 "Woman of Peace Award" granted by the Rome-based international organisation Together for Peace.

The citation said Princess Sarvath was awarded the prize "for her intense involvement in the promotion of education as a

means of development and greater international understanding and through a wide range of programmes helping the mentally challenged, the learning-disabled, disadvantaged young women and encouraging community services.

The award also treasures Princess Sarvath's role in improving the educational process in Jordan and the region and her faith in

education as an important means for human resources development and fighting discrimination facing Third World women.

The award ceremony was attended by Queen Fabiola of Belgium, Italian officials and invited guests.

Among other world personalities granted awards along with Princess Sarvath were the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Palestinian leader Yasser

Arafat, Sonia Gandhi, wife of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Reverend Desmond Tutu of South Africa and Argentine President Carlos Menem.

While in Rome, Princess Sarvath met with the wife of Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, who paid tribute to Jordan's role in peace-making in the Middle East.

Uganda says it will pursue rebels into Sudan territory

KAMPALA (Agencies) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has warned that his forces would make commando raids into Sudan in pursuit of the northern Ugandan rebels fighting to overthrow his government.

In an unusual letter to the editor, published in the government-owned New Vision newspaper Tuesday, Mr. Museveni declared: "Uganda will make commando raids into southern Sudan in pursuit of the Ugandan rebels seeking to overthrow my government, but it would not be a large-scale military operation unless the Sudanese also start such an operation against us."

Uganda severed diplomatic relations with Sudan early this year and since then each has accused the other of supporting rebel groups.

Mr. Museveni's warning was in reference to last month's declaration by Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir that he would send his forces to invade Uganda in pursuit of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces, which Khartoum accuses Uganda of harbouring and supporting.

The Ugandan leader demanded Khartoum arrest and expel the rebels from its territory, accusing Sudan of continuing to host northern Ugandan rebel forces of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) of former Roman Catholic catechist Joseph Kony, and West Nile Liberation Front (WNLF) rebels of Juma Oris, former foreign minister in the ousted dictator Idi Amin's regime.

"We demand, as we have done before, that the Sudan disband the bandits, intern them for international inspection and expel all of them from Sudan," Mr. Museveni said.

"Khartoum should not put its own burden on Uganda," Mr. Museveni warned, adding that "if they did so, we will continue our normal intelligence-gathering tasks, but if they send criminals to kill villagers in northern Uganda or plant landmines, we may be forced to launch commando raids into southern Sudan," Mr. Museveni said.

Diplomats said Mr. Museveni's tough tone reflected a sharp escalation in hostilities between the two countries.

The LRA has in recent months stepped up attacks, inflicting heavy casualties on soldiers and civilians before slipping back into Sudan, diplomats said.

Mr. Museveni's warning was in reference to last month's declaration by Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir that he would send his forces to invade Uganda in pursuit of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces, which Khartoum accuses Uganda of harbouring and supporting.

The Ugandan leader demanded Khartoum arrest and expel the rebels from its territory, accusing Sudan of continuing to host northern Ugandan rebel forces of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) of former Roman Catholic catechist Joseph Kony, and West Nile Liberation Front (WNLF) rebels of Juma Oris, former foreign minister in the ousted dictator Idi Amin's regime.

"We demand, as we have done before, that the Sudan disband the bandits, intern them for international inspection and expel all of them from Sudan," Mr. Museveni said.

Ugandan officials say. The SPLA in the mainly Christian and animist south Sudan has been fighting the government of the Muslim-dominated Arab north since 1983.

SPLA officials said last week the rebel group had stepped up an offensive against government forces but Khartoum says SPLA troops were merely acting as guides for Ugandan forces.

Khartoum says Mr. Museveni has poured thousands of his troops and armour into southern Sudan to fight alongside the rebels in their most successful offensive in four years.

But Mr. Museveni repeated his denial of this on Tuesday.

The SPLA says it has captured 13 government garrisons since it launched a surprise offensive on Oct. 25 and claims to control most of Western and Eastern Equatorial provinces.

A week ago Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghazi Salahuddin Atahani said Egypt had sent tanks to help the SPLA.

Sudan has also accused Ethiopia, Eritrea and Tanzania of aiding the guerrilla movement.

in which they will try to keep apart the warring factions and allow a two-part Bosnian state to develop under a peace plan agreed last month.

The bearded and bespectacled Solana said he was "very honoured" by his appointment and saw it as recognition of Spain's contribution to NATO.

Mr. Solana, 53, got the job despite the fact that Spain is not yet integrated into NATO's military command structure. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at the weekend he hoped the move would bring Madrid closer to the alliance.

Mr. Christopher also shrugged off criticism from U.S. congressmen including Senate majority leader Bob Dole that Mr. Solana was a socialist who had formerly opposed Spanish membership of NATO. Mr. Christopher said he expected the Spaniard to provide the alliance with strong leadership.

Mr. Solana said he proposed to "dedicate my very best efforts" to the Bosnia operation, the success of which will be an example of cooperation, security in Europe and the reaffirming of the role of our alliance.

Both Mr. Solana and Mr. Derycke paid tribute to Mr. Claes, who the Belgian minister said had left his "personal imprint" on the alliance by preparing it for the arduous Bosnia mission.

Ugandan officials say.

The SPLA in the mainly Christian and animist south Sudan has been fighting the government of the Muslim-dominated Arab north since 1983.

SPLA officials said last week the rebel group had stepped up an offensive against government forces but Khartoum says SPLA troops were merely acting as guides for Ugandan forces.

Khartoum says Mr. Museveni has poured thousands of his troops and armour into southern Sudan to fight alongside the rebels in their most successful offensive in four years.

But Mr. Museveni repeated his denial of this on Tuesday.

The SPLA says it has captured 13 government garrisons since it launched a surprise offensive on Oct. 25 and claims to control most of Western and Eastern Equatorial provinces.

A week ago Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghazi Salahuddin Atahani said Egypt had sent tanks to help the SPLA.

Sudan has also accused Ethiopia, Eritrea and Tanzania of aiding the guerrilla movement.

in which they will try to keep apart the warring factions and allow a two-part Bosnian state to develop under a peace plan agreed last month.

The bearded and bespectacled Solana said he was "very honoured" by his appointment and saw it as recognition of Spain's contribution to NATO.

Mr. Solana, 53, got the job despite the fact that Spain is not yet integrated into NATO's military command structure. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at the weekend he hoped the move would bring Madrid closer to the alliance.

Mr. Christopher also shrugged off criticism from U.S. congressmen including Senate majority leader Bob Dole that Mr. Solana was a socialist who had formerly opposed Spanish membership of NATO. Mr. Christopher said he expected the Spaniard to provide the alliance with strong leadership.

Mr. Solana said he proposed to "dedicate my very best efforts" to the Bosnia operation, the success of which will be an example of cooperation, security in Europe and the reaffirming of the role of our alliance.

Both Mr. Solana and Mr. Derycke paid tribute to Mr. Claes, who the Belgian minister said had left his "personal imprint" on the alliance by preparing it for the arduous Bosnia mission.

Another Algerian journalist murdered

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Militants killed an Algerian journalist here Tuesday in the second such murder in less than a week, security services said.

Khadidja Dahamani, who worked for the Arabic-language newspaper Echourouk, was shot in the Baraki suburb of Algiers where she lived.

Security services blamed "armed criminals," the term traditionally used here to refer to Islamic fundamentalists trying to bring down the military-backed government.

Dahamani, who was 28, was the 46th journalist killed in Algeria since May 1993. Her death came two days after those of a journalist for the mass-circulation French-language daily Liberte and his driver, who were tortured and decapitated.

Interior Minister Mostefa Benmoussa condemned Tuesday's "odious crime," saying: "The state is determined more than ever to put an end to these acts which are completely foreign to the values of our people."

Fundamentalists seeking to establish an Islamic state in Algeria accuse journalists of "collaborating" with the government.

Echourouk, one of Algeria's largest-circulation papers with a readership of about 300,000, is reputed for its cultural and society pages, and popular with women.

"I'm devastated. It's a campaign against all journalists," one of Dahamani's colleagues told AFP. "She was a very religious woman. She wore a veil, but they didn't protect her," he added.

A colleague from the same paper was killed in May in another Algiers suburb.

The unprecedented brutalising of journalists has intensified a climate of fear in Algeria's newsrooms.

In Sunday's attack, the victims had been tortured, and their decapitated heads were placed on stakes in the suburb where the Liberte journalist lived.

Dozens of people have been reported killed by militants in the past two weeks, including two senior army officers, in what appears to be a stepped up operation to counter reports of hundreds of rebels surrendering in response to a demerency offer by the government.

The attacks follow a lull during last month's presidential election which was overwhelmingly won by President Liamine Zerroul. Turnout in the polls, protected by a massive deployment of security forces, was large despite threats by militants to kill voters.

Israelis hold emotional Rabin memorial service

WEST JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Fighting back tears, Shimon Peres bid a final goodbye Tuesday to his slain partner in the quest for peace, Yitzhak Rabin, telling him that "the dawn of peace has broken."

"You were murdered because you were right," Mr. Peres said at a graveside service marking the end of the 30-day mourning period.

"You were murdered because you won."

"The bullets that pierced your chest did not cut down the fruits of your labour — they only revealed them."

As he finished his speech, Mr. Peres, who succeeded Mr. Rabin as prime minister, stopped and took off his glasses. Looking as if he might cry, he told Mr. Rabin's widow Leah that "today, almost all the people are with the Rabin family, in happiness and sadness."

About 400 people, including family members, cabinet ministers, opposition leaders, army officers and diplomats, attended the memorial service on a cold, wet afternoon at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl cemetery. Dozens of wreaths were laid on the grave of Mr. Rabin, who was shot and killed Nov. 4 by a Jewish extremist at a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

In Gaza, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Mr.

Rabin's death was a loss for the Palestinian people.

"Without doubt, it is a big loss not only for the Israelis but for the Palestinians too, and the peace process," Mr. Arafat told reporters.

He also urged Mr. Peres to forge ahead with the Palestinian autonomy agreement.

"I hope that Prime Minister Peres, with his strong cabinet, will continue the peace process," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Peres will meet Mr. Arafat on Friday for the first time since succeeding Mr. Rabin, at the Erez crossing between Israel and the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Remembrance ceremonies were held in Israeli schools to honour Mr. Rabin at the end of the "shloshim," or 30-day period, when relatives revisit the grave of a loved one.

Israeli radio stations played sombre music and interviewed Mr. Rabin's political advisers and friends in a replay of the outpouring of grief that followed the assassination.

But a day before the expected indictment of confessed killer Yigal Amir, Israel's highest newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth questioned whether the country had learned any lessons from the first assassination of one of its leaders.

"The initial shock has pas-

sed and we are back to shouting. We are again driving wildly on the roads. Does nothing remain of the silence and candles in the square (where Rabin was killed)? Has anything inside us changed?" it asked in a commentary next to a black-bordered picture of Mr. Rabin.

Amnon Shahak, Israel's armed forces chief of staff, spoke of the "huge empty space" left by Mr. Rabin's death.

"Thirty days are not enough time to learn how to live with the pain," he said.

"Shalom, commander, we will miss you very much."

Mr. Rabin was a military man for much of his adult life, serving as armed forces chief of staff and defence minister.

More than a hundred soldiers in ponchos and full battle gear were deployed at the cemetery, reflecting the tight security that has surrounded government leaders and Mr. Rabin's family since the assassination. Several high-ranking security officials have lost their jobs because of security breaches the night of the slaying.

Mr. Peres vowed Tuesday that he would press on with peacemaking. "The dawn of peace has broken. It can no

(Continued on page 7)

Israel plans to plug 'gaps' in electronic barrier with Gaza

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The electronic barrier built by Israel around the autonomous Gaza Strip is a "sieve" incapable of preventing infiltration by Palestinians, Israeli police said Tuesday.

The electric fence incorporates state-of-art sensors that react to slightest contact, but it was constructed by Palestinian workers who know all its weak points, police said.

Yaakov Eytan, police chief at the Erez border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, said "dozens of Palestinians, restricted from entering Israel because of security reasons, are able to get past the barrier to work in Israel."

To remedy the problem, Israel has decided to upgrade the entire system, but this time without the help of Palestinian workers.

"But it's already a lost battle, because the Palestinians will always figure out a way to get past the fence," Mr. Eytan said.

Israeli police have already filled in several small tunnels dug by Palestinians under the 30 kilometre barrier, which has been built since autonomy was established in Gaza in May 1994.

Only 15,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who are over 30 years old, married and have an Israeli work permit, are allowed to enter Israel

each day to work.

Every week, police arrest hundreds of Palestinians staying illegally in Israel. They usually have to pay a fine and are taken back to the border.

Peres 'reassures' rabbi

A leading West Bank rabbi said Prime Minister Shimon Peres assured him Monday he would not dismantle Jewish settlements during the interim stage of Palestinian autonomy which is to last through 1996.

U.S.-born Rabbi Riskin of the Efrat settlement said he was encouraged by the conciliatory tone adopted by Mr. Peres in their unusual meeting.

"Not only did he say he would not remove a single settlement now, he spoke as if he does not want to remove a single settlement even in the permanent arrangement," Mr. Riskin told Israel Radio.

"The prime minister said again and again that he does not want to abandon or give us (settlers) the feeling we are abandoned, and he will do everything to ensure our security," added Mr. Riskin.

The 35-year-old former Rabbi of New York's Lincoln square synagogue.

assassination was "to start to bridge the gap" between Israelis of differing political views, Riskin said.

The Israeli army jailed a Jewish settler and restricted the movements of three others on Tuesday "for security reasons," a military spokesman said.

The commander of the central military region, General Ilan Biran, placed Shmuel Sirin of the Kyriat Arba settlement near the West Bank town of Hebron in "administrative detention" or custody without trial for three months.

'Collaborators' 'disarmed'

Israel has begun disarming Palestinians who collaborated with it during the occupation of the territories, and many have now become double agents for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) military official said Tuesday.

The military administration began discharging the Palestinian collaborators before taking back weapons given to them since the beginning of the intifada in December 1987.

"It covers Palestinians who are not in danger and can live without weapons," said a senior Israeli officer who requested anonymity.

COLUMN

Thai king celebrates birthday

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej celebrated his birthday Tuesday after what he called a difficult year which included the death of his mother, two stays in hospital and severe flooding across parts of his country. King Bhumibol, who turned 68, told an audience Monday he had been touched by the outpouring of public grief on the death of his 94-year-old mother, Princess Mother Sri Sangwal, in July. The king told the 13,000-plus audience, including government leaders and officials at Bangkok's Chitlada Palace, that two spells in hospital when he underwent blood vessel surgery for a heart problem had contributed to the year's woes. But he devoted most of his speech to his plans for preventing a repeat of the serious flooding which struck large parts of the South East Asian country this year. Armed with maps and marker pens the king explained how he thought dams should be built on main rivers to store water in the rainy season and release it gradually in the dry season. The relaxed-looking king interspersed his advice with jokes, drawing laughter from the assembly on several occasions. King Bhumibol (pronounced Pumbol) is the world's longest serving monarch and marks 50 years as king in 1996. He was born on Dec. 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his father, Prince Mahidol, was studying. King Bhumibol and his wife Queen Sirikit have a son and three daughters. Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, born in 1952, was the first male heir born to a reigning Thai monarch in 59 years.

meter clerks jailed for pocketing \$540,000

WELLINGTON (R) — Two New Zealand parking meter clerks, one of them a Vietnam War deserter, were each jailed for two-and-a-half years Tuesday for stealing \$540,000 from meters run by the Wellington City Council. The council is taking civil action to recover the money from Gordon James Stott, 58, and David Mitchell, 49, who stole most of it from coins put in meters. The court was told that most, if not all of it, would be repaid. Each man pleaded guilty to one charge of theft as an employee. Defence lawyer Bruce Davidson said Mr. Mitchell left the U.S. army while in Vietnam and for several years was believed dead. Mr. Mitchell told police at the time of his arrest in 1993 that he was a deserter. Since his arrest he had had a heart attack, battled alcohol and drug abuse, and had severe depression with elements of post-traumatic stress disorder. Mr. Stott's lawyer also said his client suffered psychological problems.

Boy rescued after 8 hours trapped in hole

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — To onlookers' cheers, Taiwan police rescued a 4-year-old boy unharmed after eight hours trapped in a 26-metre deep hole on a construction site. Kang Tse-Chieh remained in a hospital under observation Monday following his rescue Sunday from a water-filled hollow concrete pillar, said police to Chiayi, about 300 kilometres south of Taipei. The boy fell into the hole while his father was fishing in a nearby pond, police said.

King...
for co...
Israeli...
meeting...
Rabin's...
De...
skilled...
in Sout'